



Final
**Environmental Assessment
Construction and Operation
of
Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus**

78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia

January 21, 2010

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND CAMPUS

Background and Purpose - 78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch (78 CEG/CEAO) has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential effects of construction and operation of a new Headquarters (HQ) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) Campus at Robins Air Force Base (AFB). A new HQ AFRC Campus would consolidate personnel and facilities together into a single geographic location. Existing AFRC facilities at Robins AFB would be vacated for reuse and, in support of this effort, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) would relocate existing operations and units that would better serve base operations by moving to the vacated AFRC spaces.

The existing HQ AFRC and select WR-ALC facilities are not adequate for their current or future functional requirements. These facilities have existing space shortfalls due to expanding mission requirements and planned reorganization efforts. AFRC and WR-ALC facilities are currently dispersed across the installation and/or located off-base, impeding communications and overall efficiency of operations. AFRC has personnel located in two off-base leased facilities that are not compliant with Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) Standards found in Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 4-010-01, "DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings" (DoD, 2003), which establishes AT/FP requirements for off-base facilities. This directive must be applied to all leased DoD space by 01 October 2009.

The main purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a new HQ AFRC Campus facility that would effectively consolidate the functions of this major command (MAJCOM) together into a single geographic area. There are approximately 1,100 people stationed at HQ AFRC comprising a staff that incorporates a mix of active-duty Air Force members, Air Force reservists on extended active duty, Air Reserve Technicians and Civil Service employees to perform the mission. This consolidation would improve the functional efficiency of the organization through proximity, improve force protection that is lacking at off-base AFRC facilities by bringing all functions onto the installation, and allow for future growth of AFRC facilities by providing sufficient land area for expansion. In support of this action, WR-ALC would relocate existing operations and units to the vacated AFRC spaces to better utilize these areas. The current HQ AFRC Campus is located near the WR-ALC flightline operations area of Robins AFB. By relocating the HQ AFRC Campus, these facilities can be regained by the host wing for operational activities associated with the aircraft depot operations of the flightline.

The Proposed Action also includes the relocation and consolidation of certain command and control functions accomplished at AFRC installations located throughout the United States. Approximately 566 positions (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) would be transferred to Robins AFB and located in the new HQ AFRC Campus. Relocating and consolidating these command and control functions creates manpower and operating efficiencies and would save limited resources during a period of continuously decreasing budgets. Environmental impacts that may occur at the AFRC installations located outside of Robins AFB and Warner Robins, Georgia (where the command and control functions would relocate from) are not within the scope of this analysis.

Two alternatives were considered in the Environmental Analysis (EA): the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. Other alternatives initially considered failed to meet criteria for the project and were not evaluated in the EA. These failed alternatives included the placement of the new HQ AFRC Campus in two alternate locations at Robins AFB. However, these alternate locations did not meet the requirements of providing a location of adequate dimensions to allow development of current and future campus facilities; providing existing infrastructure in the form of access roadways; and providing a location that allows for easy pedestrian access between the proposed campus and destinations on base that support the HQ AFRC. Therefore, these alternatives were eliminated from further evaluation.

Description of the Proposed Action - The Proposed Action consists of construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus and the transfer of AFRC operations and personnel currently located in various facilities on and off base.

The construction component of the Proposed Action consists of the development of a consolidated HQ AFRC Campus including four two-story administrative buildings, a two-story AFRC Band Building, associated personnel parking areas, interior roadways, recreation areas and landscaping. The four administrative buildings would be located on the western half of the site. The front command structure would be a two-story building of approximately 120,000 gross square feet (gsf). Two flanking buildings would be approximately 107,000 gsf each and also two stories in height and the back building would be approximately 100,000 gsf and two-stories in height. The front and two flanking buildings would contain AFRC directorates of the command in functionally sensible configurations that generally match the space, and the back facility would consolidate the command and control functions being relocated to Robins AFB. The AFRC Band Building would be located on the eastern portion of the site in a two-story building of approximately 20,000 gsf.

The remainder of the Proposed Action Site would be developed with: approximately 7,100 linear feet of asphalt-paved roads and an associated 8,400 square foot bridge; porous pavement surface parking lots consisting of 1,300 parking spaces and associated storm water drains; and pedestrian walkways including approximately 7,300 linear feet of 6-foot wide porous concrete or recycled rubber sidewalk, approximately 5,100 linear feet of 6-foot wide porous pavement or gravel paved fitness trail, and an approximately 275-foot long pedestrian bridge over the adjacent Duck Lake. Various outdoor amenities would also be developed including static displays (statuary) of aircraft, various sculptures, a reflecting pool, a quadrangle parade ground and a band shell amphitheater.

The Proposed Action Site consists of an approximately 35-acre property associated with the former Lakeside residential subdivision. The Proposed Action Site is located in the central portion of Robins AFB approximately 1,200 feet south of the intersection of Robins Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The Proposed Action site is located on the eastern side of Robins Parkway, between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Seventh Street.

Approximately 1,100 existing AFRC staff at Robins AFB would be stationed at the new HQ AFRC Campus. Approximately 566 positions (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) would be transferred to Robins AFB and located in the HQ AFRC Campus. The facility would primarily operate 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.

After relocation of AFRC to the new AFRC Campus, the vacated facilities at Robins AFB would be reused by other operations associated with the aircraft depot operations of the flightline. WR-ALC would relocate operations and units from several less than optimal facilities that have outlived their useful life, but are currently being used due to space shortfalls. [Although a list of WR-ALC operations/buildings planned for relocation/demolition has been suggested, it should be noted that no definitive decision has been reached at this time regarding which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.] Environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the relocation of WR-ALC operations are not within the scope of this analysis.

Description of the No-Action Alternative - Under the No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur at Robins AFB related to the new HQ AFRC Campus. No relocation of operations to spaces vacated by the AFRC would occur. All AFRC and select WR-ALC operations at Robins AFB would continue as they do at present in the existing on-base and off-base locations. Multiple agencies on base would remain in inadequate facilities while being forced to expand operational capabilities with increased workload. Functions would have to remain dispersed across the installation and off base. Without the construction of a new HQ AFRC Campus, no resulting improvement in working conditions, consolidation of administrative functions, or improved security associated with the collocation of facilities would occur. The entire installation, tenants and host, would lose the opportunity to realign installation functions to facilitate near- and long-term mission requirements.

Anticipated Environmental Effects - The EA describes current environmental conditions at the proposed construction site and the potential environmental effects of conducting the No-Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts or significant beneficial impacts to the environment and socioeconomy.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no or minimal impacts on the following resources and elements: topography, surface waters, geology, soils, floodplains, wetlands, groundwater, water supply, drinking water, toxic materials, cultural resources, and transportation. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in insignificant adverse impacts or beneficial impacts to the remaining resources and elements, specifically storm water, biological environment and safety. These insignificant adverse impacts include the increased storm water runoff associated with an additional 15 acres of developed and paved surfaces, and the removal of approximately 20,000 square feet of trees (hardwoods and pines) from the western portion of the site. The insignificant beneficial impacts to safety include the improved force protection resulting from bringing all AFRC functions onto base.

Construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus would not cause significant adverse impacts to surface waters because the contractors use Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the course of day-to-day construction operations. The contractors would use BMPs such as silt fencing, hay bales, erosion blankets, geotextile matting on steep slopes, check dams in drainage swales, diversion berms, and sediment basins during the construction of the HQ AFRC Campus to control storm water runoff so as not to cause significant adverse impacts. Post construction BMPs would utilize permanent low impact development (LID) features including pervious parking areas, filter boxes, grass swales, bioretention swales and/or underground storage

reservoirs to reduce or eliminate surface water discharge to Duck Lake and surrounding contiguous properties. The contractor would develop and implement appropriate plans, obtain all appropriate permits, and dispose of waste appropriately under governing regulations, thus causing only temporary and insignificant effects to air quality, waste management, noise and traffic. The Proposed Action would produce a positive effect on the socioeconomy, as construction expenditures represented by the proposed facility would provide a short-term economic stimulus to the region's economy. The Proposed Action would also produce a long-term positive effect on AFRC personnel safety, as off-base operations would be brought onto the installation. The proposed pedestrian bridge and vehicle bridge could result in the requirement of Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Section 401 Certification from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The need for permitting would be evaluated during the final design process for the bridges. Bridge development or other general construction activity may not enter the stream buffer area without an approved Stream Buffer Variance application, per Section 391-3-7.05 (Buffer Variance Procedures and Criteria) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) Rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

Cumulative impacts to the environment resulting from additional projects that are proposed, ongoing, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the near future also received evaluation as a part of the EA. The most notable cumulative impact resulting from the construction of new facilities in the area of the Proposed Action would be cumulative increases in storm water runoff due to increased impermeable surface area; however, when considered in conjunction with the implementation of LID design techniques, use of natural areas, and maximizing groundwater infiltration on the site, these potential cumulative increases in storm water runoff would not cause significant negative effects to surface waters as these features would sufficiently delay runoff of surface water from high-intensity storms and control erosion and subsequent sedimentation. In addition, Robins AFB's day-to-day operations, and use of the above-referenced BMPs would control land disturbance and storm water runoff. Furthermore, the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, were also evaluated and found to be insignificant, because the remaining resources and elements would not be significantly affected under the Proposed Action, and the impacts when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions would not be significant.


A notice was published on August 25, 2008, in the *Houston Home Journal* inviting the public to review and comment upon the Draft Final EA. A request was also submitted to the Georgia State Clearinghouse on September 3, 2008, requesting review by various state agencies and a review period of 30 days. Responses were received from the Georgia State Clearinghouse on October 1, 2008, and are addressed in the Final EA. All agency consultation is complete.

Conclusion

Detailed evaluation was conducted to determine potential adverse effects to the human, physical and natural environment, as presented in the *Environmental Assessment, Construction and Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus*, 2010. Based upon my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference, I conclude that the Proposed Action will not have a significant environmental impact. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this action. This document, and the

supporting EA, fulfills the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process.

Approved:


OTIS L. HICKS, JR.

Director

78th Civil Engineer Group

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Date

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of
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for
78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia
Contract No. FA4890-04-D-0005, Delivery Order No. Q605

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) propose to construct a new Headquarters (HQ) AFRC Campus at Robins Air Force Base (AFB), Georgia. The new HQ AFRC Campus would enhance the administrative function of this command by consolidating personnel and facilities together into a single geographic location. Existing AFRC facilities at Robins AFB would be vacated for reuse and, in support of this effort, WR-ALC would relocate existing operations and units that would better serve base operations by moving to the vacated AFRC spaces.

AFRC is a major command (MAJCOM) of the U.S. Air Force with its headquarters at Robins AFB, Georgia. HQ AFRC provides the necessary administrative support to help ensure that its three numbered Air Forces (4th Air Force, 10th Air Force and 22nd Air Force), 36 wings and other subordinate units are prepared and properly equipped to accomplish their Total Force missions. The command supervises the unit-training program, provides logistics support and ensures combat readiness.

The current AFRC facilities primarily serve as the administrative headquarters of the Air Force Reserve. HQ AFRC is presently located in nine facilities on base and two leased facilities off base. There are approximately 1,100 people stationed at HQ AFRC comprising a staff that incorporates a mix of active-duty Air Force members, Air Force reservists on extended active duty, Air Reserve Technicians and civil service employees to perform the mission. This combination provides the headquarters with active-duty Air Force experience, reservist perspective and civil service continuity.

The main purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a new HQ AFRC Campus facility that would effectively consolidate the administrative functions of this MAJCOM together into a single geographic area. This would serve to improve the functional efficiency of the organization through proximity, improve force protection that is lacking off base by bringing all functions onto the installation, and allow for future growth of facilities by providing sufficient land area for expansion. The Proposed Action also includes the

relocation and consolidation of certain command and control functions accomplished at Reserve installations located throughout the United States. Approximately 566 positions (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) would be transferred to Robins AFB and located in the HQ AFRC Campus. Relocating and consolidating these command and control functions creates manpower and operating efficiencies and would save limited resources during a period of continuously decreasing budgets.

78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch (78 CEG/CEAO) has conducted this EA to identify and assess potential effects of the Proposed Action: construction and operation of a new HQ AFRC Campus at Robins AFB, and the transfer of AFRC operations and personnel currently located in various facilities on and off base. This EA evaluated the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative and summarizes the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action Site consists of an approximately 35-acre property currently occupied by 60 residential structures comprising 100 units associated with the Lakeside residential subdivision on Robins AFB. The residential structures, recreation/playground areas and six residential streets (Cherry Circle, Cherry Court, Cherry Drive, Cherry Terrace, Lakeside Circle and Lakeside Drive) are currently located within the borders of the Proposed Action Site. However, the residential structures would be demolished and removed as part of a separate action associated with the Military Family Housing (MFH) Privatization Initiative, and are not evaluated in consideration of this EA. The existing residential setting of the Proposed Action Site is characterized by mature hardwood and conifer trees and typical residential landscaping (lawns and shrubs). All utilities (electrical, natural gas, water, sewer, telephone, and cable television) within this area are below ground, with the exception of high tension aboveground power lines located along the western side of the site and an aboveground sanitary sewer line located to the north of the site.

The Proposed Action Site is located in the central portion of Robins AFB approximately 1,200 feet south of the intersection of Robins Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr.

Boulevard. The Proposed Action Site is located on the eastern side of Robins Parkway between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Seventh Street.

The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a consolidated HQ AFRC Campus including four two-story administrative buildings, one two-story AFRC Band Building, associated personnel parking areas, interior roadways, recreational areas and associated landscaping. The four administrative buildings would be located on the western half of the site. The front command structure would be a two-story building of approximately 120,000 gross square feet (gsf). Two flanking buildings would be approximately 107,000 gsf each and also two-stories in height, and the back building would be approximately 100,000 gsf and two-stories in height. The front and two flanking buildings would contain AFRC directorates of the command in functionally sensible configurations that generally match the space, and the back facility would consolidate the command and control functions being relocated to Robins AFB. The AFRC Band Building would be located on the eastern portion of the site in a two-story building of approximately 20,000 gsf. This building would contain the AFRC Band.

The remainder of Site would be developed with: approximately 7,100 linear feet of asphalt-paved roads and an associated 8,400 square foot bridge; porous pavement surface parking lots consisting of 1,300 parking spaces and associated storm water drains; and pedestrian walkways including approximately 7,300 linear feet of 6-foot wide porous concrete or recycled rubber sidewalk, approximately 5,100 linear feet of 6-foot wide porous pavement or gravel-paved fitness trail, and an approximately 275-foot long pedestrian bridge over the adjacent Duck Lake. Various outdoor amenities would also be developed including static displays (statuary) of aircraft, various sculptures, a reflecting pool, a quadrangle parade ground and band shell amphitheater.

In addition to providing a new HQ AFRC Campus, another purpose of the Proposed Action is for WR-ALC to reclaim and reuse the valuable spaces vacated by AFRC. The WR-ALC is a vital part of the Air Force war fighting team and provides worldwide engineering services and logistics management for operations at Robins AFB. The current HQ AFRC Campus is generally located near the WR-ALC flightline operations

area of Robins AFB. HQ AFRC is surrounded by WR-ALC Headquarters, the flightline and numerous administrative facilities. By relocating the HQ AFRC Campus, these facilities can be regained by the host wing for operational activities associated with the aircraft depot operations of the flightline.

The Proposed Action does not include changes to existing HQ AFRC operations at Robins AFB other than a new consolidated HQ AFRC Campus in a new location. Materiel from the existing AFRC operations located on base would be transferred to the new HQ AFRC Campus, as needed. The Proposed Action does not include changes to existing WR-ALC operations that would be relocated as a result of AFRC moving to a new campus. [Although a list of WR-ALC operations/buildings planned for relocation/demolition has been suggested, it should be noted that no definitive decision has been reached at this time regarding which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.] Environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the relocation of WR-ALC operations are not within the scope of this analysis.

The No-Action or “status quo” alternative evaluated herein involves no project implementation. Under the No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur at Robins AFB related to the new HQ AFRC Campus. No activities would occur in support of relocating operations to the existing spaces vacated by AFRC. All AFRC and select WR-ALC operations at Robins AFB would continue as they do at present in the existing on-base and off-base locations. Functions would have to remain dispersed across the installation and off base. Without the construction of a new HQ AFRC Campus, there would be no resulting improvement in working conditions, consolidation of administrative functions, or improved security associated with the collocation of facilities. The entire installation, tenants and host, would lose the opportunity to realign installation functions to facilitate near- and long-term mission requirements.

Two alternatives were considered in the EA: the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. Other alternatives initially considered failed to meet criteria for the project and were not evaluated in the EA. These failed alternatives included the placement of the

new HQ AFRC Campus in two alternate locations at Robins AFB. However, these alternate locations did not meet the requirements of providing a location of adequate dimensions to allow development of current and future campus facilities; providing existing infrastructure in the form of access roadways; and providing a location that allows for easy pedestrian access between proposed campus and various proximate destinations on base that support the HQ AFRC. Therefore, these alternatives were eliminated from further evaluation.

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No-Action Alternative was determined to cause significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts to the environment (**Table 2-2**). In summary, constructing and operating the HQ AFRC Campus at the Proposed Action Site would provide positive socioeconomic impacts and positive safety impacts for AFRC personnel. Increases in surface water runoff generated as a result of additional impervious surface area would be controlled and measures implemented to protect water quality; therefore, no significant adverse effects would occur.

Cumulative impacts to the environment resulting from additional projects that are proposed, ongoing, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the near future also received evaluation in the EA. The most notable cumulative impact resulting from the construction of new facilities in the area of the Proposed Action would be cumulative increases in storm water runoff due to increased impermeable surface area; however, when considered in conjunction with the implementation of low impact development (LID) design techniques, use of natural areas, and maximizing groundwater infiltration on the site, these cumulative increases in storm water runoff would not cause significant negative effects to surface waters. In addition, Robins AFB's day-to-day operations, and plans to use Best Management Practices (BMPs) would control land disturbance and storm water runoff. Cumulative impacts on the remaining environmental resources and elements were also assessed and were determined to be insignificant (**Table 2-2**).

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APPENDICES

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B	Agency / Public Correspondence

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

330 ASW	330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing
402 MXW	402nd Maintenance Wing
542 CSW	542nd Combat Sustainment Wing
78 CEG/CEAO	78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch
ACM	asbestos-containing material
AFB	Air Force Base
AFRC	Air Force Reserve Command
AFOSH	Air Force Occupational Safety and Health
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
AT/FP	Antiterrorism/Force Protection
bgs	below ground surface
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CY	calendar year
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DoD	Department of Defense
DNL	Day-Night Average Noise Level
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPD	Environmental Protection Division
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
GDNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
gsf	gross square feet
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning
HWMP	Hazardous Waste Management Plan
HQ	Headquarters
IMA	Individual Mobilization Augmentees
ISWMP	Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
LBP	lead-based paint
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
lf	linear feet
LID	low impact development
MAJCOM	major command
MILCON	Military Construction
MFH	Military Family Housing
msl	mean sea level

NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
POV	privately owned vehicle
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RMG	Recruiting Management Group
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation
SDD	Sustainable Design and Development
sf	square feet
TCE	Trichloroethylene
UFC	Unified Facilities Criteria
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGBC	United States Green Building Council
VOQ	Visiting Officers Quarters
WR-ALC	Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

78th Civil Engineer Group, Optimization Branch (78 CEG/CEAO) has conducted this Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify and assess potential effects of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative as described in **Section 2** and evaluated in **Sections 3 and 4**. The Proposed Action includes the construction and operation of a new Headquarters (HQ) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) Campus at Robins Air Force Base (AFB) to enhance the administrative function of this command by consolidating personnel and facilities together into a single geographic location. Existing AFRC facilities at Robins AFB would be vacated for reuse and, in support of this effort, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) would relocate existing operations and units that would better serve base operations by moving to the vacated AFRC spaces. The purpose and need for action are described in the following sections.

1.1 PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ACTION

AFRC is a major command (MAJCOM) of the U.S. Air Force with its headquarters at Robins AFB, Georgia. HQ AFRC provides the necessary administrative support to help ensure that its three numbered Air Forces (4th Air Force, 10th Air Force and 22nd Air Force), 36 wings and other subordinate units are prepared and properly equipped to accomplish their Total Force missions. The command supervises the unit-training program, provides logistics support and ensures combat readiness. HQ AFRC is presently located in nine on-base facilities and two leased off-base facilities.

The mission of the Air Force Reserve is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace. The Air Force Reserve provides supplemental capability to the U.S. Air Force by providing combat-ready units and individuals for active duty when needed. In addition to its role as a proven and respected combat force, the Air Force Reserve is involved in international humanitarian relief missions, from repairing roads and schools to airlifting supplies. Other real-world missions include conducting aerial spray missions

(pest/vegetation control and oil spill dispersal) using specially equipped C-130s, support of counter narcotics efforts, weather reconnaissance, rescue operations and aeromedical evacuation.

The main purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a new HQ AFRC Campus facility that would effectively consolidate the functions of this MAJCOM together into a single geographic area. This would serve to improve the functional efficiency of the organization through proximity, improve force protection that is lacking off base by bringing all functions onto the installation, and allow for future growth of facilities by providing sufficient land area for expansion. The Proposed Action also includes consolidating to Robins AFB certain command and control functions located at various Reserve installations across the United States consolidating to Robins AFB to eliminate redundancies and provide manpower and operating cost efficiencies. Environmental impacts that may occur at the locations where the command and control functions would relocate from are not within the scope of this analysis.

In addition to providing a new HQ AFRC Campus, another purpose of the Proposed Action is for WR-ALC to reclaim and reuse the valuable spaces that would be vacated by AFRC. The WR-ALC is a vital part of the Air Force war fighting team and provides worldwide engineering services and logistics management for operations at Robins AFB. The current HQ AFRC Campus is generally located near the WR-ALC flightline operations area of Robins AFB. HQ AFRC is surrounded by the WR-ALC Headquarters, the flightline and numerous administrative facilities. By relocating the HQ AFRC Campus, these facilities can be regained by the host wing for operational activities associated with the aircraft depot operations of the flightline, which is located proximate to the north.

HQ AFRC requires a consolidated campus to effectively manage HQ functional requirements, and the current AFRC campus is unable to expand due to site constraints. WR-ALC requirements for additional space could most effectively be resolved through the use of existing AFRC campus facilities due to their proximity to WR-ALC flightline. A new, relocated AFRC HQ campus would address Robins AFB space requirements by

making the existing AFRC facilities available for use by WR-ALC. This would provide much improved working conditions, alleviate parking and traffic problems, consolidate functions, and improve security.

In support of this effort to provide a new HQ AFRC Campus, WR-ALC would relocate operations and units from several less than optimal facilities that have outlived their useful life, but are currently are being used due to space shortfalls. [Although a list of WR-ALC operations/buildings planned for relocation/demolition has been suggested, it should be noted that no definitive decision has been reached at this time regarding which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.] Environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the relocation of WR-ALC operations are not within the scope of this analysis.

1.2 NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The existing HQ AFRC and select WR-ALC facilities are not adequate for their current or future functional requirements. These facilities have existing space shortfalls due to expanding mission requirements and planned reorganization efforts. AFRC and WR-ALC facilities are currently dispersed across the installation and/or located off-base, impeding communications and overall efficiency of operations. AFRC has personnel located in two off-base leased facilities that are not compliant with Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) Standards found in Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 4-010-01, “DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings” (DoD, 2003), which establishes AT/FP requirements for off-base facilities similar to those on military installations. This directive must be applied to all leased DoD space by 01 Oct 09.

Robins AFB, as a part of its base realignment plan (Area Development Plan), has proposed the physical relocation of various functions to improve overall effectiveness and efficiency of base functions and operations. The primary goal is to relocate those “hard” functions and operations that directly support the war fighter to the northern portion of base in those areas associated with the airfield and flightline. An example of a hard function with facilities to be relocated is the 402nd Maintenance Wing (402 MXW).

The 402 MXW has shops in Building 603 and associated surrounding buildings, and performs maintenance on a variety of aircraft. These operations directly support the industrial flightline. Also as part of the redistribution, “soft” functions would be relocated to areas away from the airfield toward and on the southern portion of base. The HQ AFRC is an example of a soft function with facilities to be relocated away from the flightline. The physical alignment of facilities with related functions and support requirements would allow for optimal utilization of land area on base and generally improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of base operations.

Reorganization of WR-ALC has generated the need to physically realign base Wings and thus relocate various functions. The 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing (330 ASW) and the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing (542 CSW) are examples of functions that require additional space due to expanding missions. Both of these wings provide life-cycle management, unscheduled and programmed depot maintenance, and upgrades/modifications for a variety of combat and support aircraft. Various WR-ALC administrative functions are located in old warehouses near AFRC facilities, which would be better used as warehouse space. WR-ALC space shortfalls total approximately 114,000 square feet (sf) and include approximately 69,000 sf of CSW facility space, and a command post sized at 15,000 sf. AFRC shortfalls include approximately 66,000 sf in off-base lease requirements and 60,000 sf in on-base deficiencies.

If provided a new campus, HQ AFRC would vacate existing on-base buildings providing approximately 261,600 sf of space for use by WR-ALC. In support of this effort, WR-ALC would relocate various operations and units providing a total of approximately 140,500 sf of new space (and remove a trailer currently occupied by AFRC). The WR-ALC would be able to eliminate the need for approximately \$18.5 million in military construction (MILCON). Providing AFRC and WR-ALC facilities and accomplishing AFRC Campus construction provides the optimal solution for both AFRC and WR-ALC.

If AFRC does not consolidate into a campus footprint, multiple agencies on base would remain in inadequate facilities while being forced to expand capabilities with increased workload, negatively affecting C-15, C-17, C-130, and F-15 depot-level repair

operations. Additional functions would have to be dispersed across the installation. Standards set forth in UFC 4-010-01 would not be met by the required deadline. The entire installation, tenants and host, would lose the opportunity to realign installation functions to facilitate near- and long-term mission requirements.

NEPA requirements help to ensure that environmental information is made available to the public during the decision-making process and prior to actions being taken. 78 CEG/CEAO provided an opportunity for public and agency review of, and comment on, the Draft Final EA prior to completion of the Final EA. A public notice was published on August 25, 2008 in the local newspaper, the Houston Home Journal, to announce the availability of the Draft Final EA. Copies of the Draft Final EA were sent to the Georgia State Clearinghouse on September 3, 2008 for distribution to relevant state regulatory agencies. Comments received from the public and relevant state agencies during the 30-day review period were incorporated in the Final EA to complete the consultation process. Copies of the public notice and agency correspondence are presented in **Appendix B.**

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This chapter presents the considerations used for selecting alternatives, describes the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative and summarizes the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative. Other potential alternatives that were preliminarily evaluated and subsequently eliminated from further consideration are also discussed briefly in the following sections.

2.1 REQUIREMENTS

Several requirements were identified for the evaluation of alternatives that were based on fulfilling the purpose of creating a consolidated campus for a MAJCOM-level agency. Alternatives that merit detailed evaluation must meet the following criteria that support the purpose and need for action.

- Compliance with DoD minimum force protection construction standards as outlined in *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings* (DoD, 2003):
 - a building greater than 150 feet from the controlled perimeter, and
 - a site large enough for a 33-foot standoff distance from the structure.
- Ability to provide an approximately 25-acre site that can provide space for development of a consolidated HQ AFRC Campus including four two-story administrative buildings, one two-story AFRC Band Building, associated personnel parking areas, interior roadways, recreational areas and associated landscaping for a command consisting of approximately 1,360 full-time personnel.
- Ability to provide a modern and operational HQ AFRC Campus facility without interrupting current mission requirements of HQ AFRC.
- Ability to provide siting for a consolidated HQ AFRC Campus that includes the following characteristics:
 - Adequate size and dimensions to allow development of current and future campus facilities. Although not a specific requirement, a wide frontage is desirable to allow display of facility architecture and building façades, with adequate rear development space available to conceal secondary buildings, parking and less attractive activities. A roughly square-shaped parcel and level ground are optimal for future development;
 - Site location that does not include noise pollution from surrounding facilities;

- Site location that provides existing infrastructure in the form of access roadways and utilities (potable water, sanitary sewer, storm water sewer, electricity and natural gas);
- Site location that allows for easy pedestrian access between proposed campus and various proximate destinations such as the enlisted dormitories, community commercial center, Conference Center, Officers' Club, Fitness Center, Golf Clubhouse, recreation areas such as the lake and ball fields, and the Medical Clinic; and
- Site location that readily allows for the incorporation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) elements.

In accordance with the Air Force Sustainable Design and Development (SDD) policy, 31 Jul 07, all Air Force construction projects, regardless of scope or funding source, shall endeavor to use the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Green Building Rating Systems as their self-assessment metric. This is consistent with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Executive Order 13423. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 09, 100 percent of each MAJCOM's MILCON vertical construction projects, with climate control, shall be designed so that it is capable of achieving LEED Silver certification.

In addition to these requirements, an optimal site location would have a high aesthetic potential and architectural compatibility with surrounding structures and settings; and existing natural features (lake, trees, etc.) that would enhance the completed design of the campus. An optimal site location would also allow for the development of amenities befitting a MAJCOM-level agency headquarters such as a fitness trail, recreation area(s) and visually appealing landscaping.

Although the Proposed Action includes vacating existing structures occupied by AFRC and the relocation of existing operations and units by WR-ALC in support of better utilizing building space near the flightline area, there are no separate requirements for these components of the Proposed Action. [It should be noted that no definitive decision has been reached at this time regarding what agencies/operations would occupy the vacated AFRC spaces.]

2.2 PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

This EA addresses the proposed construction and operation of a new HQ AFRC Campus at Robins AFB. Robins AFB is located in Houston County in central Georgia, approximately 100 miles southeast of Atlanta, 18 miles south of Macon, and immediately east of the city of Warner Robins (**Figure 1**). The existing HQ AFRC facilities that are spread throughout Robins AFB and off base in leased facilities would be vacated (**Figure 2 and Figure 3**). As a part of this action, WR-ALC would relocate various operations and units from substandard facilities that contain activities that would better serve base operations by moving to the vacated AFRC spaces.

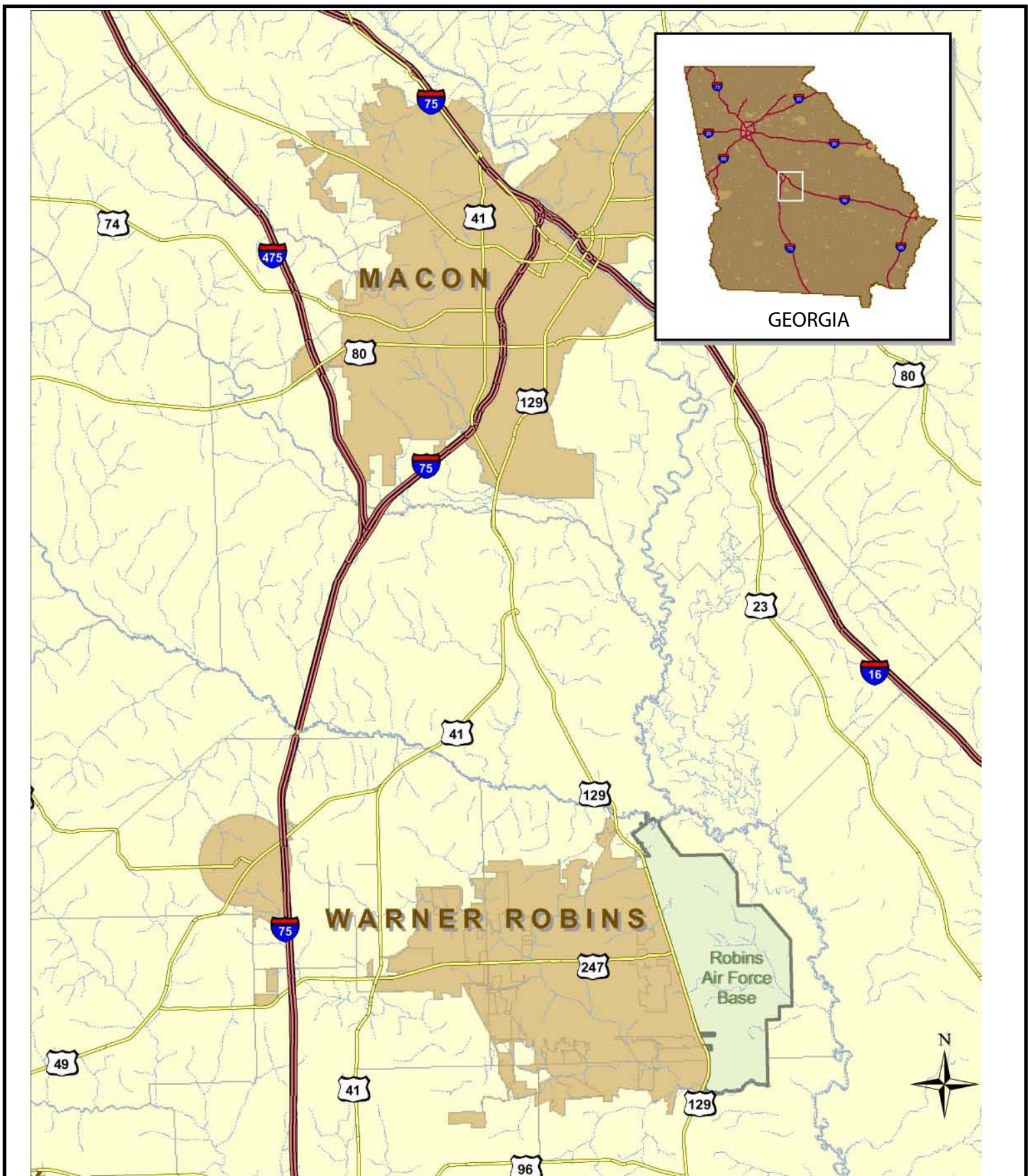
The site selected for the new HQ AFRC Campus, referred to herein as “Proposed Action Site” is an approximately 35-acre property currently occupied by the Lakeside residential subdivision on the eastern side of Robins Parkway between Lakeside Drive and Cherry Drive (**Figure 4**).


The Proposed Action Site currently consists of sixty (60) residential structures, associated roads and utilities. However, these structures would be demolished and removed as part of a separate action associated with the Military Family Housing (MFH) Privatization Initiative.

Components of the Proposed Action include:

- Construction of a new HQ AFRC Campus sufficient for serving all AFRC functions at Robins AFB.
 - Design/build construction process for the new HQ AFRC Campus would begin in calendar year (CY) 2010 and be completed approximately 24 months later.

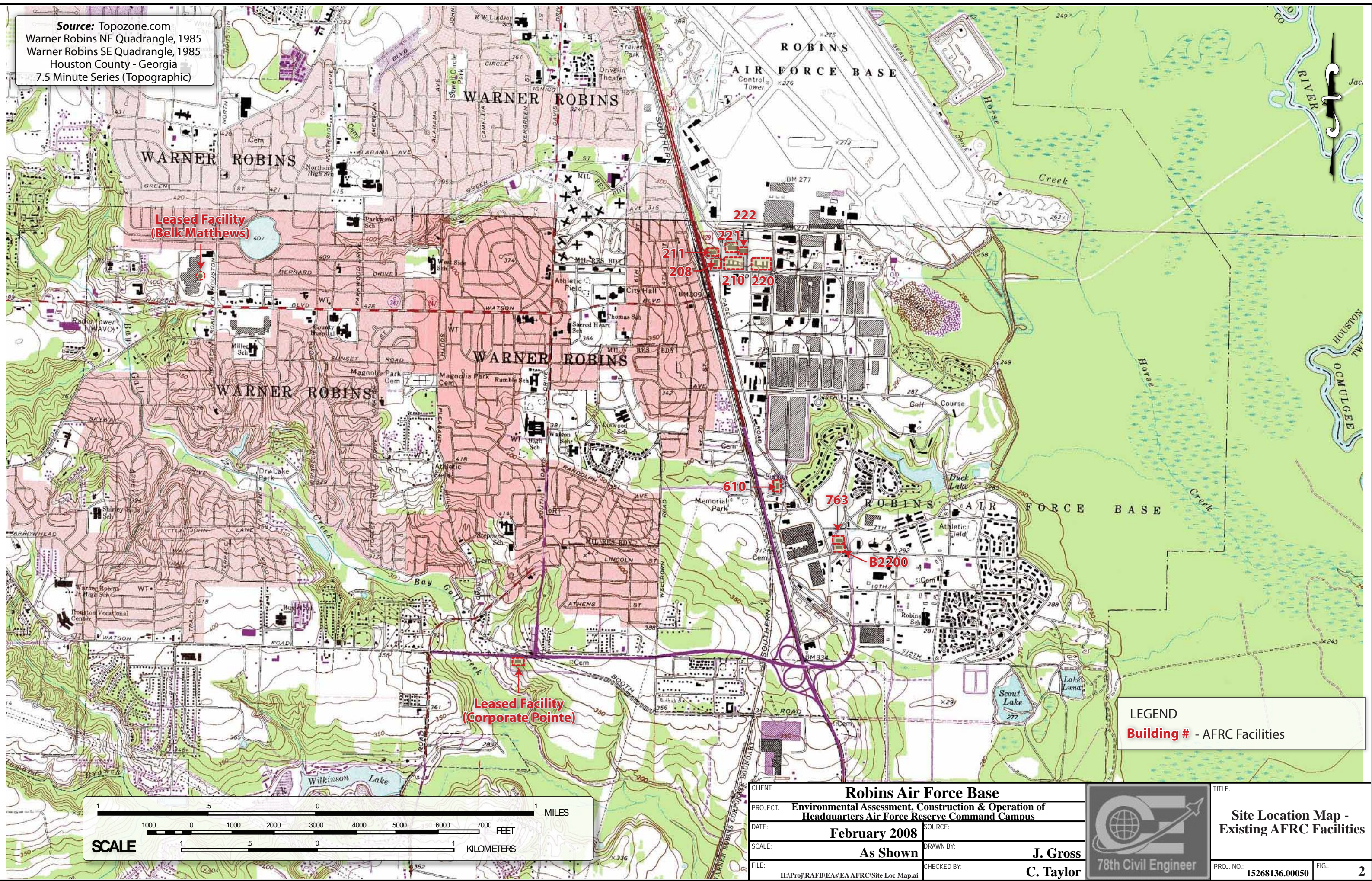
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CLIENT:		Robins Air Force Base		 78th Civil Engineer	TITLE:		Vicinity Map	
PROJ:		Environmental Assessment, Construction & Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus						
DATE:		February 2008						
SCALE:		Unknown						
FILE:		H:\proj\robins\EA\EA AFRC\VicinityMap.ai		DRAWN BY:		J. Gross		PROJ NO.: 15268136.00050
				CHECKED BY:		C. Taylor		

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Source: Topozone.com
Warner Robins NE Quadrangle, 1985
Warner Robins SE Quadrangle, 1985
Houston County - Georgia
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



LEGEND

Building # - AFRC Facilities

CLIENT:	Robins Air Force Base		
PROJECT:	Environmental Assessment, Construction & Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus		
DATE:	February 2008	SOURCE:	
SCALE:	As Shown	DRAWN BY:	J. Gross
FILE:	H:\Proj\RAFB\EAs\EA AFRC\Site Loc Map.ai	CHECKED BY:	C. Taylor

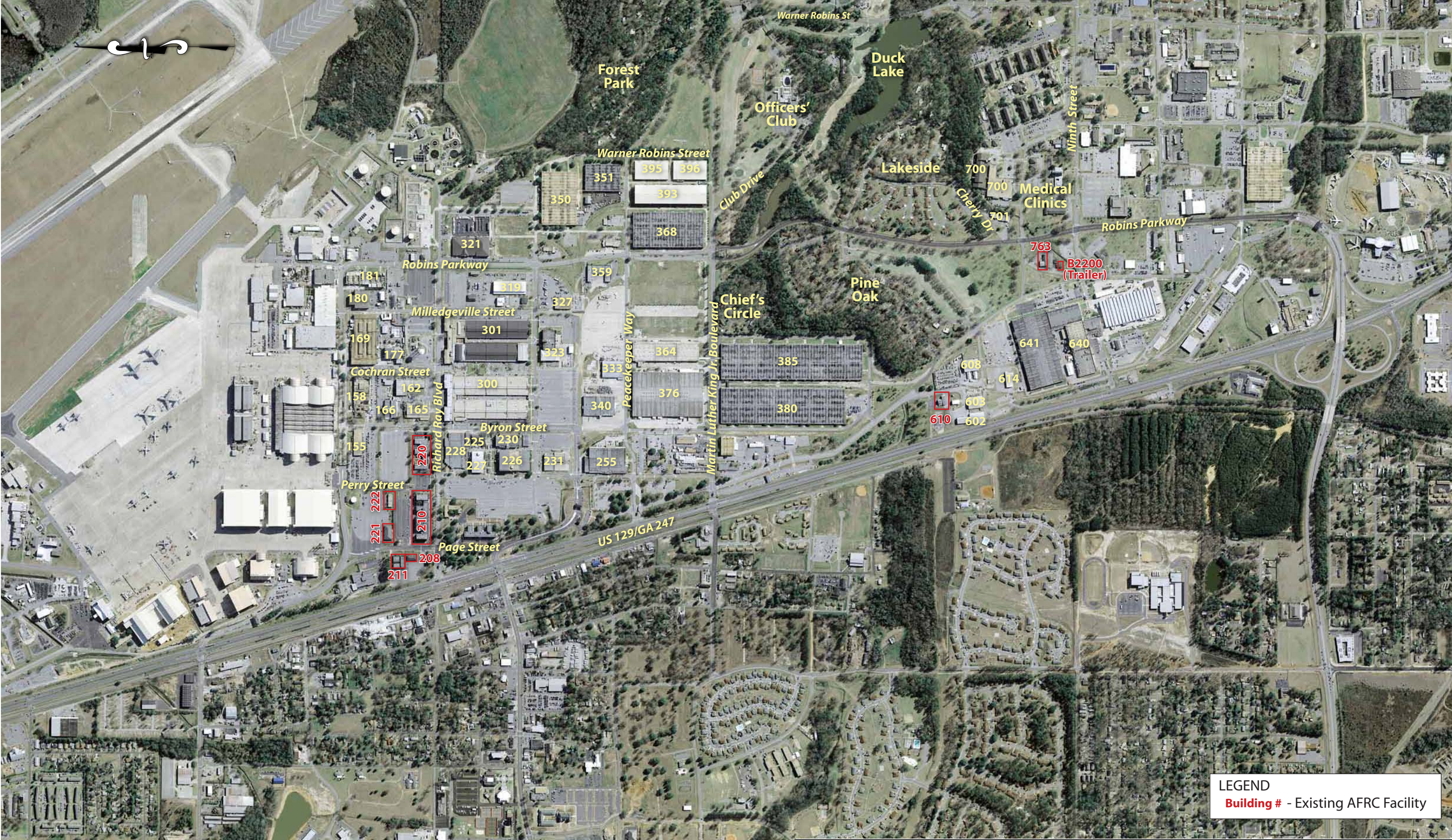


TITLE:

**Site Location Map -
Existing AFRC Facilities**

PROJ. NO.: 15268136.00050	FIG.: 2
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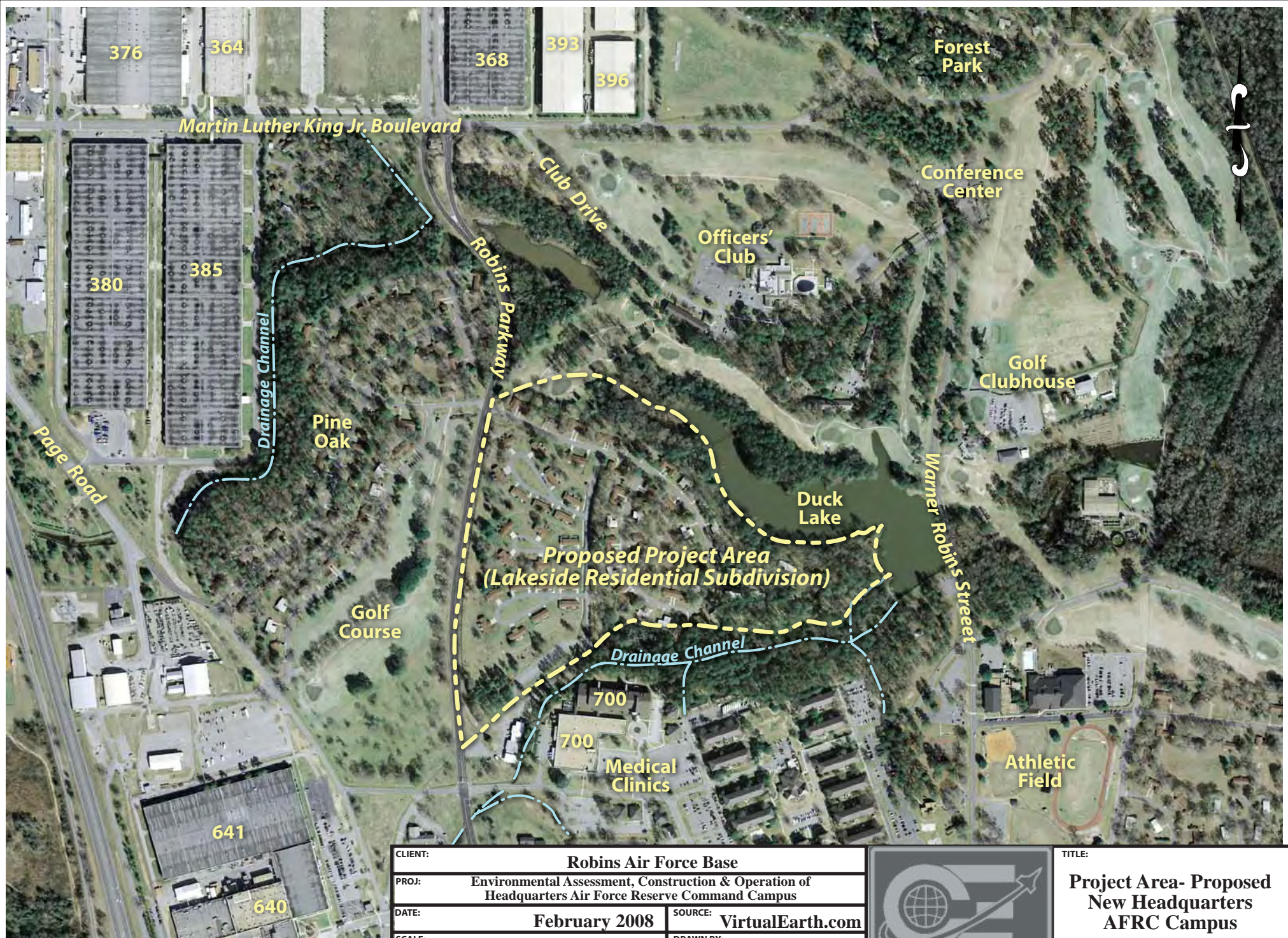
LEGEND
Building # - Existing AFRC Facility

CLIENT:	Robins Air Force Base	
PROJECT:	Environmental Assessment, Construction & Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus	
DATE:	February 2008	SOURCE: VirtualEarth.com
SCALE:	Not to Scale	DRAWN BY: J. Gross
FILE:	H:\Proj\RAFB\EA\AFRC EA\Figure 3.ai	CHECKED BY: C. Taylor



TITLE: Existing AFRC Facilities (On Base)	
PROJ. NO.: 15268136.00050	FIG.: 3

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CLIENT:	Robins Air Force Base		
PROJ:	Environmental Assessment, Construction & Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus		
DATE:	February 2008	SOURCE:	VirtualEarth.com
SCALE:	Not to Scale	DRAWN BY:	J. Gross
FILE:	H:\Proj\RAFB\EAs\AFRC EA\Figure 4.ai	CHKD BY:	C. Taylor



TITLE:	Project Area- Proposed New Headquarters AFRC Campus	
PROJ. NO.:	15268136.00050	FIGURE:
		4

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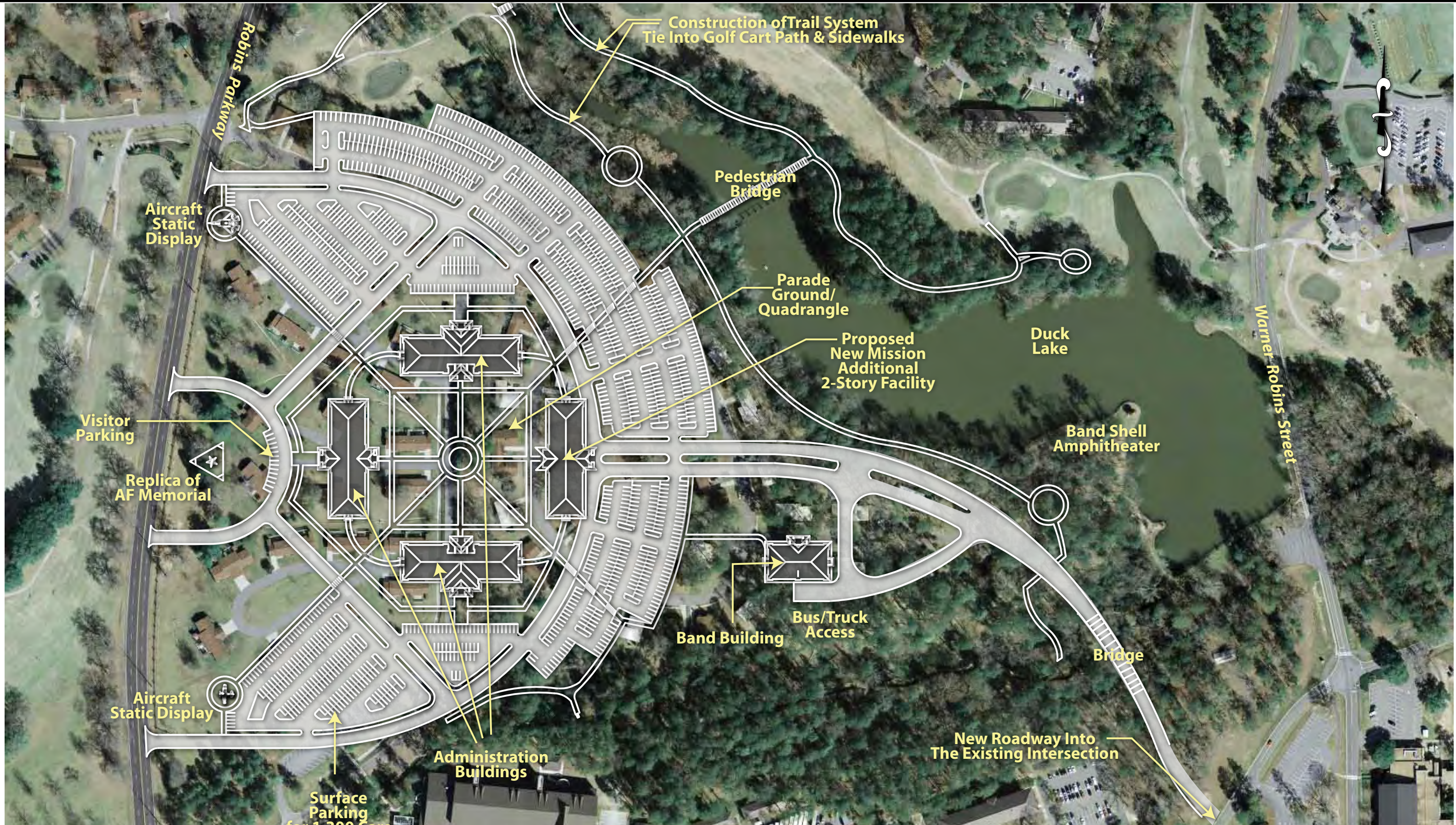
- Construction of a consolidated HQ AFRC Campus including four two-story administrative buildings, one two-story AFRC Band Building, associated personnel parking areas, interior roadways, recreational areas and associated landscaping (**Figure 5**). Construction includes all utilities, concrete foundations; floor slabs; masonry walls; roof systems; interior walls and finishes; heating, ventilation, & air conditioning (HVAC) systems; electrical systems; fire protection and parking lots required to provide a complete and fully-functioning campus for HQ AFRC.
- As shown on Figure 5, specific construction design components for a new HQ AFRC Campus on the Proposed Action Site at Robins AFB include the following:
 - Two-story front command structure of approximately 120,000 gross square feet (gsf) would contain the following directorates: Command Section (CC), Manpower & Personnel (A1), Intelligence (A2), Air, Space & Information Operations (A3), Plans & Requirements (A5), Strategic Plans & Programs (A8) and Analyses, Assessments & Lessons Learned (A9).
 - Two two-story flanking buildings of approximately 107,000 gsf each would contain the remaining directorates of the command in functionally sensible configurations that generally match the available space.

The following directorates and support offices would be located in the northern facility: Logistics (A4), Communications (A6), Financial Management (FM) and Public Affairs (PA).

The following directorates and support offices would be located in the southern facility: Installation & Mission Support (A7), Chaplain (HC), Historian (HO), Safety Office (SE), Inspector General (IG), Judge Advocate (JA), Surgeon General (SG), Recruiting Service (RS), Recruiting Management Group (RMG), the 622nd Military Personnel Flight (MPF), and the 951 Orderly Room (OR).

- Two-story AFRC Band Building of approximately 20,000 gsf for the AFRC Band.
- A 400 kilowatt emergency generator unit with an associated 1,000-gallon diesel fuel aboveground storage tank for use during power outages.
- Approximately 7,100 linear feet (lf) of asphalt-paved 2-lane and 4-lane access and arterial roads; and an associated 8,400 sf 4-lane bridge.

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CLIENT:	Robins Air Force Base	
PROJECT:	Environmental Assessment, Construction & Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus	
DATE:	February 2008	SOURCE:
SCALE:		DRAWN BY: J. Gross
FILE:	H:\Proj\RAFB\EAs\EA AFRC\Proposed Layout.ai	CHECKED BY: C. Taylor



TITLE:	Proposed Site Layout - Headquarters AFRC Campus	
PROJ. NO.:	15268136.00050	FIG.: 5

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- Porous pavement/concrete parking lots consisting of 1,300 parking spaces and associated storm water drains.
- Pedestrian walkways including approximately 7,300 lf of 6-foot wide porous concrete or recycled rubber sidewalk, approximately 5,100 lf of 6-foot wide porous pavement or gravel-paved fitness trail, and an approximately 275-foot long pedestrian bridge over the adjacent Duck Lake. The pedestrian bridge would incorporate and conceal an existing aboveground sewer line.
- Various outdoor amenities including static displays (statuary) of aircraft, various sculptures, a reflecting pool, a quadrangle parade ground and band shell amphitheater.
- Incorporation of existing cultural resource points as display features along outdoor trail and exercise areas.
- Utilities: Existing utilities located at the Proposed Action Site including aboveground and subsurface electrical power, sanitary sewer, storm water sewer, potable water and natural gas lines would be modified, removed and relocated, as needed.
- The central portion of the Proposed Action Site would be developed with buildings, parking, roadways and landscaped areas and incorporate the existing trees and vegetation, as permitted by facility design. The natural forested and lakeside areas located along the perimeter of the property would be incorporated into the site landscaping design.
- Construction and incorporation of a 4th administrative facility into the HQ AFRC Campus to support 566 personnel (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) associated with command and control functions that would be relocated to Robins AFB from other AFRC installations. (Environmental impacts that may occur at the locations where the command and control functions would relocate from are not within the scope of this analysis.)
 - The facility would be a two-story administrative building approximately 100,000 gross square feet (gsf) located behind the other three administrative buildings to form a rectangular shape. Construction includes all utilities, concrete foundations; floor slabs; masonry walls; roof systems; interior walls and finishes; heating, ventilation, & air conditioning (HVAC) systems; electrical systems; fire protection and parking lots required to provide a complete and fully-functioning building.
- The existing HQ AFRC facilities located on base would continue to operate during construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus;

- Relocation of HQ AFRC operations and personnel currently located in on base facilities to the new HQ AFRC Campus (no increase in AFRC personnel or mission changes are associated with this proposed action);
- Re-occupancy of AFRC vacated spaces by existing Robins AFB units in need of suitable space. Of critical importance are the vacated spaces located along the flightline.
- Relocation of various operations and units from existing substandard facilities by WR-ALC in support of the construction and operation of the HQ AFRC Campus.

The Proposed Action does not include changes to existing HQ AFRC operations at Robins AFB other than a new consolidated HQ AFRC Campus in a new location. Materiel from the existing AFRC operations located on base would be transferred to the new HQ AFRC Campus, as needed. The Proposed Action does not include changes to existing WR-ALC operations that would be relocated as a result of AFRC moving to a new campus. Personnel and materiel from the existing operations would be transferred to the vacated AFRC spaces or other areas on Robins AFB, as needed.

All of the Proposed Action requirements listed in **Section 2.1** would be incorporated into the new facility on the Proposed Action Site.

The Proposed Action Site is currently occupied by 60 residential structures comprising 100 units associated with the Lakeside residential subdivision on Robins AFB (**Figure 4**). The Lakeside residential subdivision site will be demolished as a part of a separate, unrelated Operations & Maintenance (O&M) demolition effort. The demolition of the residential structures was originally addressed as a part of the proposed MFH Privatization Initiative, and the removal of the structures is addressed in the “*Final Environmental Assessment for the Military Family Housing Privatization Initiative, United States Air Force, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia*” (September 2006). Implementation of the Proposed Action (as discussed in this EA) would be implemented after the proposed O&M demolition effort at the site is completed. The residential structures would be demolished regardless of whether the subject

Proposed Action or No-Action Alternative is implemented. Thus, demolition impacts associated with the Lakeside residential subdivision are not addressed in this EA.

2.2.1 Existing AFRC Facilities

The HQ AFRC is presently located in nine facilities on Robins AFB and in two off-base leased facilities in Warner Robins, Georgia (**Figure 2 and Figure 3**). While these facilities are in good condition, they do not distinguish themselves as a consolidated campus either functionally or in their general appearance. In addition, these facilities do not allow for the expansion of operations as future operational requirements increase demands on AFRC personnel. Lastly, the off-base leased facilities must be brought into compliance with UFC 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings* (DoD, 2003) by 01 Oct 09.

The current AFRC facilities primarily serve as the administrative headquarters of the Air Force Reserve. There are approximately 1,100 people stationed at HQ AFRC. The staff incorporates a mix of active-duty Air Force members, Air Force reservists on extended active duty, Air Reserve Technicians and civil service employees to perform the mission. They provide the headquarters with active-duty Air Force experience, reservist perspective and civil service continuity. A summary of the current HQ AFRC facilities, building uses and personnel numbers, and disposition under the Proposed Action, is presented in **Table 2-1**, below.

Table 2-1. Description of Current HQ AFRC Facilities

Building Number	Year Built	Gross Square Footage	Existing Occupant and Purpose / Use	Disposition Under the Proposed Action
208	1988	4,922	Administrative Uses- SBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New space for the HQ AFRC operations and equipment would be provided at the new HQ AFRC Campus.
210	1955	164,437	Administrative Uses- CC, A1, A2, A3, A4, A6, A5, A8, A9, and FM	
211	1997	15,110	Administrative Uses - A1, Aeromedical Staging Squadron (622ASTS)	

Building Number	Year Built	Gross Square Footage	Existing Occupant and Purpose / Use	Disposition Under the Proposed Action
220	1942	53,436	Administrative Uses - OR, A7, HC, HO, IG, JA, PA, SE and A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, operations, and equipment would be relocated to the new HQ AFRC Campus. The vacated spaces would be reclaimed for use by other groups at Robins AFB.
221	2002	11,704	Administrative Uses - SG, Special Examining Unit [SEU (A1)]	
222	1987	10,426	Administrative Uses – 622nd Military Personnel Flight (MPF), Reserve Pay Officer (RPO)	
610	1984	6,141	Administrative Uses - Multimedia / PA	
763	1978	6,986	Administrative Uses - Services Division (A1S)	
B2200 (Trailer)	1989	Not Known	Administrative Uses - Services Division (A1S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailer relocated and/or reused.
Belk Mathews Building (leased)	Not Applicable	58,483	Administrative Uses - AFRC Band, Reserve (IMAs), and A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leases would be terminated and leased space would be vacated. New space for these AFRC operations and equipment would be provided at the new HQ AFRC Campus. Personnel, operations, and equipment would be relocated to the new HQ AFRC Campus.
Corporate Pointe (leased)	Not Applicable	8,271	Administrative Uses - RMG	

2.2.2 Existing Operations to be Relocated

As part of the Proposed Action, WR-ALC would move operations and units from several substandard facilities that contain activities that would better serve base operations by relocating to the vacated AFRC spaces. [It should be noted that at this time no definitive decision has been reached regarding what agencies/operations would occupy the vacated AFRC spaces, which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.]

2.3 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur at Robins AFB related to the new HQ AFRC Campus. No relocation of operations to spaces vacated by the AFRC would occur. All AFRC and select WR-ALC operations at Robins AFB would continue as they do at present in the existing on-base and off-base locations, and the command and control functions would continue to be stationed at their respective installations. Multiple agencies on base would remain in inadequate facilities while being forced to expand capabilities with increased workload. Functions would have to remain dispersed across the installation and off base. AT/FP Standards set forth in UFC 4-010-01 would not be met by the required deadline. Without the construction of a new HQ AFRC Campus, there would be no resulting improvement in working conditions, consolidation of administrative functions, or improved security associated with the collocation of facilities. Further, the HQ AFRC would be left without the proper facilities necessary and appropriate for a MAJCOM-level agency. The entire installation, tenants and host, would lose the opportunity to realign installation functions to facilitate near- and long-term mission requirements.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The alternatives evaluation included preliminary assessments of the existing AFRC facilities and alternative buildings/facilities for new HQ AFRC Campus operations. No other existing buildings or facilities (vacant or occupied) were identified at Robins AFB that would meet the project requirements, so none were evaluated in this EA. Two additional alternative site locations where a new HQ AFRC Campus could be constructed were identified and were initially considered as part of the alternatives evaluation.

Alternative Site 1 (former Pine Oak residential subdivision and golf course holes # 13 & 14) was identified as a potential location for the construction and operation of the proposed new HQ AFRC Campus facility. This site is an approximately 35-acre property located on the western side of Robins Parkway, between Martin Luther King Jr.

Boulevard and Seventh Street, and this site was the former location of the Pine Oak residential subdivision (all houses have been demolished and removed). This location provides a site of adequate size with available roadway access, existing utilities / infrastructure, good roadway frontage, adequate existing natural setting requiring limited modification, and high aesthetic potential. However, the preliminary evaluation of this location included the assumption that the two golf course holes could be relocated to allow for a more suitable site layout. Relocation of the golf course holes is not an option for the development on site and thus significantly limits development design. No funds exist for the relocation of the golf course (holes # 13 & 14) and there is no land area currently available for the relocation. In addition, the site dimensions are too linear and oddly configured, limiting rear development for concealing secondary structures and activities. The surrounding land use to the west is industrial and is not architecturally compatible with the planned campus designs. The site location does not allow for walkability between the campus and various proximate destinations that support the HQ AFRC. Alternative Site 1 does not meet the requirements of providing a location of adequate dimensions to allow development of current and future campus facilities; providing a location that allows for easy pedestrian access between proposed campus and various proximate destinations on base that support the HQ AFRC; and providing a site location that has architectural compatibility with surrounding structures and settings. Alternative Site 1 did not meet the Proposed Action requirements as described above, and was therefore eliminated from further evaluation.

Alternative Site 2 (Forest Park residential subdivision) was identified as a potential location for the construction and operation of the proposed new HQ AFRC Campus facility. This site is an approximately 40-acre property located roughly at the northeastern corner of the intersection of Warner Robins Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, just north of the parade field. The site currently consists of a residential subdivision; however, houses located on a portion of the subdivision are scheduled to be demolished and removed as a part of the MFH Privatization Initiative. This location provides a site of adequate size with existing utilities / infrastructure, adequate existing natural setting requiring limited modification, and high aesthetic potential. However, the

site dimensions are somewhat linear, limiting rear development for concealing secondary structures and activities, with additional constraints posed by topography and current land use. The surrounding land use to the west is industrial and is not architecturally compatible with the planned campus designs. The site location does not allow for good roadway access or walkability between the campus and various proximate destinations that support the HQ AFRC. Alternative Site 2 does not meet the requirements of providing a location of adequate dimensions to allow development of current and future campus facilities; providing existing infrastructure in the form of access roadways; providing a location that allows for easy pedestrian access between proposed campus and various proximate destinations on base that support the HQ AFRC; and providing a site location that has architectural compatibility with surrounding structures and settings. Alternative Site 2 did not meet the Proposed Action requirements as described above, and was therefore eliminated from further evaluation.

Alternative Sites 1 and 2 are not discussed further in this EA. The site identified herein as the Proposed Action Site was the only alternative site evaluated that met all the requirements for the project, and thus is further assessed in this EA. The Proposed Action Site provides the greatest versatility for site development allowing for the development of the site within the required timeframe and meeting all of the requirements for site suitability.

2.5 COMPARISON OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Implementation of either the Proposed Action or the No-Action Alternative, as detailed in **Section 4** of this document, would result in no significant adverse effect (**Table 2.2**).

Table 2-2. Comparison of Alternatives Receiving Detailed Evaluation

Phase of Action (C = Construction; O = Operation)		Proposed Action - Construction and Operation of HQ AFRC Campus		No-Action Alternative
		C	O	N/A
Environmental Component		+ = Beneficial Effect, --- = Insignificant Adverse Effect, O = No Effect		
Physical Environment	Topography	O	O	O
	Surface Waters	---	---	O
	Floodplains and Wetlands	---	O	O
	Storm Water	---	O	O
	Geology and Soils	O	O	O
	Groundwater	O	O	O
	Water Supply and Drinking Water	O	O	O
Air Quality		---	O	O
Waste Management and Toxic Materials	Wastewater	O	O	O
	Solid Waste	---	O	O
	Hazardous Materials and Waste	---	O	O
	Toxic Materials	---	O	O
Noise Environment		---	O	O
Biological Environment		---	O	O
Cultural Resources		O	O	O
Socioeconomic Environment		+	+	O
Safety		O	+	---
Transportation		---	---	---
Cumulative Impacts		---	---	---

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing environment within the area potentially affected by the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative. Brief descriptions of the Proposed Action Site and the existing AFRC facilities are followed by descriptions of the physical environment, air quality, waste management and toxic materials, noise environment, biological environment, cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, and transportation and safety. Discussion of the described elements and resources provides the basis for analysis of potential effects to the environment from the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative. Environmental impacts that may occur at the Reserve installations located outside of Robins AFB and Warner Robins, Georgia (throughout the United States) where the command and control functions would relocate from are not within the scope of this analysis.

Relevant background on Robins AFB is presented in **Appendix A**. Site-specific information presented in this section is derived from on-site evaluation and information obtained from 78 CEG/CEAO, AFRC and other Robins AFB personnel.

Proposed Action Site – Conditions at the Proposed Action Site (Lakeside residential subdivision), as they relate to the associated MFH Privatization Initiative, are incorporated herein by reference to the “*Final Environmental Assessment for the Military Family Housing Privatization Initiative, United States Air Force, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia*” (2006). The MFH EA addresses conditions at the Proposed Action Site (Lakeside residential subdivision) prior to and after demolition of the residential structures. A copy of the Final EA can be obtained from 78 CEG/CEAO (Ms. Rebecca Crader, phone number 478 327-8288).

As previously stated, the Proposed Action Site consists of an approximately 35-acre property currently occupied by 60 residential structures comprising 100 units associated with the Lakeside residential subdivision on Robins AFB (**Figure 4**). The residential structures, recreation/playground areas and six residential streets (Cherry Circle, Cherry Court, Cherry Drive, Cherry Terrace, Lakeside Circle and Lakeside Drive) are currently

located within the borders of the Proposed Action Site. The residential structures, constructed between 1959 and 1960, would be demolished as a part of the MFH Privatization Initiative. The existing residential setting of the Proposed Action Site is characterized by mature hardwood and conifer trees and typical residential landscaping (lawns and shrubs). All utilities (electrical, natural gas, water, sewer, telephone, and cable television) within this area are below ground, with the exception of high-tension aboveground power lines located along the western side of the site, and an aboveground sanitary sewer line located to the north of the site, crossing Duck Lake. Steam lines are located along the nearby major roadways but are not located within the boundaries of the Proposed Action Site.

The Proposed Action Site is located in the central portion of Robins AFB approximately 1,200 feet south of the intersection of Robins Parkway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The Proposed Action site is located on the eastern side of Robins Parkway between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Seventh Street. The site is bounded on the north by golf course hole # 12, Duck Lake and wooded land, beyond which are additional golf course holes, recreational areas, the visiting officers quarters (VOQ) and the Officers Club; on the east by Building 597 (covered picnic facility) and Warner Robins Street, beyond which are Building 598 (covered picnic facility), the Conference Center, the Golf Clubhouse and the Physical Fitness Center; on the south by wooded land and an unnamed intermittent stream leading to Duck Lake; beyond which are the Medical and Dental Clinics, associated parking areas and the airmen dormitories; and on the west by Robins Parkway, beyond which are golf course holes # 13 & 14 and the former Pine Oak residential subdivision (see **Figures 4 and 5**).

As part of the MFH Privatization Initiative, the on-site residential structures will be razed and any associated debris will be properly removed and disposed in accordance with governing regulations. The existing roadways would not be removed as a part of this effort and trees, shrubs and landscaping not affected by the demolition activities would remain in place.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - The existing AFRC operations are currently located in nine facilities on Robins AFB and in two off-base leased facilities in Warner Robins, Georgia (**Table 2-1, Figure 2 and Figure 3**). The core of the existing HQ AFRC Campus is located near the WR-ALC flightline operations area of Robins AFB and consists of six buildings (208, 210, 211, 220, 221 and 222). The remaining on-base facilities are located in the general vicinity of the Proposed Action Site and consist of two buildings (610 and 763) and one trailer (B2200). The two leased facilities (Belk Matthews Building and Corporate Pointe) are located in two separate off-base areas in Warner Robins, Georgia. Approximately 850 AFRC personnel are located in the on-base facilities and approximately 250 AFRC personnel are located in the off-base leased facilities. The following paragraphs describe each of these areas in greater detail.

Existing Core Campus Facilities (Buildings 208, 210, 211, 220, 221 and 222): These buildings are located on the north-central portion of Robins AFB near the WR-ALC flightline operations area. The buildings and associated parking lots are located on roughly contiguous parcels and are bordered by the following roads: Richard Ray Boulevard, Page Road, Perry Street and Byron Street. The Core Campus Facilities are characterized by administration buildings, associated parking lots, and landscaped areas with mature hardwoods located along the periphery of the grounds. These facilities are typically in operation 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. AFRC personnel park vehicles in the parking lots surrounding the facility buildings. Underground utilities including potable water lines, sanitary wastewater collection system lines, storm water sewer lines, natural gas lines and electrical lines are located at the surrounding roads and at the periphery of this site. These facilities are located in a heavily developed area of the base and are surrounded by industrial, warehouse and administrative operations.

Building 610 (Multimedia): Building 610 is currently occupied by AFRC Multimedia services. The building is located approximately ½ mile east of the Proposed Action Site roughly at the intersection of Cordele Street and Page Road. This site consists primarily of building and associated parking lots with minimal landscaping. The site is bound on the north by undeveloped land with scattered trees and minimal landscaping, beyond

which is an unnamed drainage channel that leads to Duck Lake. The remainder of surrounding area is heavily developed to the east, south and west. The site is bound on the east by Cordele Street, beyond which is a fenced exterior storage yard and Page Road; on the south by Buildings 601, 605 and associated parking lots, beyond which are Buildings 602, 603, 606, 607 and associated parking lots; and on the west by an electrical substation, beyond which is U.S. Highway 129 and Warner Robins, Georgia. This facility is typically in operation 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. AFRC personnel park vehicles in the parking lots surrounding the facility building. Underground utilities including potable water lines, sanitary wastewater collection system lines, storm water sewer lines, natural gas lines and electrical lines are located at the surrounding roads and at the periphery of this site.

Building 763 and trailer (B2200): These facilities are currently occupied by AFRC Services Division and are located approximately 300 feet southwest of the Proposed Action Site between Seventh Street and Ninth Street, just west of Robins Parkway. This site consists primarily of buildings and associated parking lots with minimal landscaping and scattered hardwood trees. The site is bound on the north by Seventh Street, beyond which are a section of Cherry Drive and the golf course (holes #13 & 14); on the east by Robins Parkway, beyond which are various administrative buildings; on the south by an unnamed drainage channel that leads to Duck Lake, beyond which are a parking lot, Ninth Street and additional administrative buildings; and on the west by Page Road, beyond which are parking lots and industrial facilities. These facilities are typically in operation 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. AFRC personnel park vehicles in the parking lots surrounding the facility buildings. Underground utilities including potable water lines, sanitary wastewater collection system lines, storm water sewer lines, natural gas lines and electrical lines are located at the surrounding roads and at the periphery of this site.

Belk Matthews Building (Old Houston Mall – Off-Base Leased Facility): This leased facility is currently occupied by the AFRC Band, Reserve (IMAs) Management Group, and Manpower & Personnel (A1). The facility is located approximately 2 miles west of

Robins AFB in Warner Robins, Georgia, at the northwestern corner of the intersection of Watson Boulevard and North Houston Road in the former Belk Matthews tenant space of the “old” Houston Mall. This leased facility is located on the western side of the mall building and consists of building and associated parking lots. The surrounding area is heavily developed and consists primarily of residential and commercial structures. This facility is typically in operation 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. AFRC personnel park vehicles in the parking lots surrounding the facility buildings. The site is provided with potable water and sanitary wastewater collection systems and natural gas service by the City of Warner Robins. Electricity is provided by Georgia Power.

Corporate Pointe (Off-Base Leased Facility): This leased facility is currently occupied by AFRC Recruiting Management Group (RMG). The facility is located approximately 1 mile west of Robins AFB in Warner Robins, Georgia. The site is located at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Richard B. Russell Parkway and Booth Road. This leased facility is located in a multi-tenant, multi-building commercial office park and consists of buildings and associated parking lots with landscaping and mature hardwood and conifer trees. The surrounding area is heavily developed and consists primarily of commercial and residential structures. This facility is typically in operation 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. AFRC personnel park vehicles in the parking lots surrounding the facility building. The site is provided with potable water and sanitary wastewater collection systems and natural gas service by the City of Warner Robins. Electricity is provided by Georgia Power.

For the off-base facilities leased by AFRC, the Proposed Action would not include land disturbance, construction, demolition or building renovation activities. Hence, the following environments and environmental components would not be affected and, therefore, are not discussed further in this EA: topography; surface waters; floodplains and wetlands; storm water; geology and soils; groundwater; industrial wastewater; hazardous and toxic materials and waste; noise; biology; and cultural resources. Furthermore, the amount of sanitary wastewater generated at the leased facilities, the amount of water drawn from the local water supply, and the generated amount of mobile

source air emissions and solid waste associated with AFRC mission-related personnel at these leased facilities are insignificant when compared to the total population in the Warner Robins area and to the total number of personnel at Robins AFB. Thus for the leased facilities, sanitary wastewater, water supply, drinking water, solid waste and air quality are not addressed further in this section.

Existing Operations to be Relocated – In support of the construction and operation of a new HQ AFRC Campus, WR-ALC would relocate operations and units from substandard facilities that contain activities that would better serve base operations by relocating to the vacated AFRC spaces. [It should be noted that at this time no definitive decision has been reached regarding what agencies/operations would occupy the vacated AFRC spaces, which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.] Environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the relocation of WR-ALC operations are not within the scope of this analysis.

3.1 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The following description of the physical environment of the study areas is based on its principal components: topography, surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, storm water, geology and soils, groundwater and water supply and drinking water.

3.1.1 Topography

Background information relative to topography as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 3.1.1 of Appendix A**.

Proposed Action Site – Topography at the Proposed Action Site is relatively flat on the west-central portion of the site with an average elevation of approximately 290 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Proposed Action Site slopes gradually downward to the north and east (toward Duck Lake) and to the south (toward an unnamed intermittent tributary leading to Duck Lake). The average elevation at the site in these areas is approximately

270 feet above msl.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Topography at the existing AFRC facilities on base is relatively flat and varies in elevation by location, as follows. The average elevation at the existing core AFRC campus facilities (Buildings 208, 210, 211, 220, 221 and 222) is approximately 300 feet above msl with a gentle slope to the north. The average elevation at Building 610 (Multimedia) is approximately 295 feet above msl with a gentle slope to the north. The average elevation at Building 763 and B2200 is approximately 290 feet above msl with a gentle slope to the south.

3.1.2 Surface Waters

Background information relative to surface waters as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 3.1.2** of **Appendix A**.

Proposed Action Site – No natural surface water bodies are located on the Proposed Action Site. Duck Lake is an 8.3-acre man-made lake located in the central portion of the base, adjacent to the northeastern side of the Proposed Action Site. An unnamed intermittent stream (tributary) leading to Duck Lake is located on the southern border of the Proposed Action Site.

Duck Lake was previously identified as being contaminated with pesticides, specifically chlordane and Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). Remedial actions were performed and the current contaminant concentrations do not represent an environmental concern to the Proposed Action Site. In March 2006, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) granted a “No Further Action” status to Duck Lake.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - No natural surface water bodies are located on the existing AFRC sites. An unnamed drainage channel is located approximately 200 feet north of Building 610 (Multimedia) and an unnamed drainage channel borders the Building 763 / B2200 site to the south. Both drainage channels lead to Duck Lake.

No current operations at or characteristics of the Proposed Action Site or the existing AFRC sites directly adversely impact surface waters.

3.1.3 Floodplains and Wetlands

Background information relative to wetlands as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 3.1.3 of Appendix A.**

Based on review of flood insurance rate maps of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, 2007), the most recent floodplain map (Robins AFB, 2006), and site observations, the Proposed Action Site and the existing AFRC sites are not located within the 100-year floodplain, nor do the sites contain jurisdictional wetlands. Nor do any activities or operations at the sites directly impact floodplains and wetlands. The adjacent surface water features (Duck Lake and the associated intermittent stream), although not listed as wetland areas, are classified as jurisdictional Waters of the United States.

3.1.4 Storm Water

Proposed Action Site – The Proposed Action Site does not currently receive significant amounts of storm water runoff from off-site sources. The Proposed Action Site consists of residential housing (Lakeside residential subdivision). No outside operations that adversely affect storm water occur in this area. Precipitation falling onto the site infiltrates the vegetated areas and sheet flows into ditches and storm drains located along the residential streets. The drains are part of the on-site storm water collection system that discharges to Duck Lake located northeast of the site. The drains and Duck Lake are part of the base on-site storm water collection system that ultimately discharges to Horse Creek and wetlands, flowing eventually to the Ocmulgee River. Implementation of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative will not change the storm water features or attributes of or near the Proposed Action Site.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Precipitation falling onto the existing AFRC sites primarily sheet flows into storm water ditches and drains located on and adjacent to the

sites. The ditches and drains are part of the base's storm water collection system. The drains and Duck Lake are part of the base on-site storm water collection system that ultimately discharges to Horse Creek and wetlands, flowing eventually to the Ocmulgee River.

No current operations at or characteristics of the Proposed Action Site or the existing AFRC sites directly adversely impact storm water.

3.1.5 Geology and Soils

Proposed Action Site – Many of the soils in the vicinity of the Proposed Action Site have been disturbed due to site development activities, including the clearing and grading of the site and the construction of residential homes and associated streets. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mapped and classified the soils on the western and central portions of the Proposed Action Site as “Lucy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes,” which is described as deep, well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soil on uplands (USDA, 1967). The soils on the extreme northern and southern borders of the site are classified as “Lucy sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes,” which is described as deep, well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soil on gently sloping uplands (USDA, 1967). The areas of the site that are not covered by buildings or pavement are predominantly covered with grass (lawn), landscaping and trees, and the soils are not exposed.

Current site uses are not known to have adversely impacted on-site or off-site soils. However, Chlordane (a pesticide) was used in the past in military family housing areas for the control of subterranean termites. The pesticide was applied underground around the foundation of the housing units. Chlordane-impacted soils will be addressed as a part of demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative, prior to the implementation of the Proposed Action. Chlordane-impacted soils will be managed and disposed of appropriately; if found to be non-hazardous, the soil would be stockpiled on base for potential future reuse, and any waste material would be properly disposed of as solid waste. Any hazardous waste generated would be disposed of through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO).

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Many of the soils in the vicinity of the existing AFRC facilities have been disturbed due to construction. Prior to the development of the sites, the soils in the area were classified in the county soil survey as “Lucy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes.” Current site activities and operations do not significantly adversely impact on-site or off-site soils.

3.1.6 Groundwater

Proposed Action Site - Current and past operations at the Proposed Action Site are not known to have adversely impacted groundwater conditions. No groundwater contamination is known to exist, and no groundwater treatment systems are in operation on or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action Site. Based on topographical features, it is estimated that groundwater depth varies from approximately 15 to 20 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the area of the site.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Current and past operations at the existing AFRC facilities are not known to have adversely impacted groundwater conditions. No groundwater contamination is known to exist, and no groundwater treatment systems are in operation on or in the vicinity of the existing AFRC facilities, with the following exceptions.

Petroleum free product was identified at the Building 449 compliance cleanup site, located north of existing AFRC Buildings 208, 210, 211, 220, 221, and 222. The Building 449 site includes one groundwater monitoring well (B449MW2), contaminated with petroleum free product, located between Building 83 and First Street, approximately 200 feet north of AFRC facilities. Soil contamination is not documented at these AFRC facilities. Depth to groundwater in this area is documented as being approximately 8 to 9 feet bgs at its shallowest.

A groundwater contaminant plume is located in the area immediately south of Buildings 763 and B2200. The groundwater in this general area is impacted with trichloroethylene (TCE) at levels above regulatory action limits. The TCE groundwater plume originates

near Building 645 (ERP Site OT17) approximately 300 feet southwest of Buildings 763 and B2200. Soil contamination is not documented at these AFRC facilities. Depth to groundwater in this area is documented as being approximately 20 to 25 feet bgs.

3.1.7 Water Supply and Drinking Water

Robins AFB is permitted to operate its water supply system under state of Georgia Permit No. CG1530042. By operating in compliance with permit requirements, the base ensures that it meets Federal and Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

No groundwater drinking wells are located within the boundaries of the Proposed Action Site or the existing AFRC facilities. Potable water distribution at the Proposed Action Site is provided by a series of loop distribution pipes that spring from a primary main running the length of Robins Parkway. The loop pipes that service the Proposed Action Site are also connected on the northeast corner to the enlisted dormitory area. Potable water distribution pipes at the existing AFRC facilities are located at the periphery of the sites running parallel to the surrounding roads. Potable water is currently used by approximately 850 on base AFRC personnel. Potable water is currently used for AFRC operations in the restroom and breakroom areas within the facilities.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

3.2.1 Regional Air Quality

Robins AFB is located in an attainment area, indicating that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are being met in Houston County.

3.2.2 Air Emission Sources

Robins AFB is compliant with its Title V permit issued on 5 May 09 (Air Quality Permit #9711-153-0033-V-02-0).

Proposed Action Site - Insignificant mobile source air emissions are currently generated by personal vehicles at the remaining occupied residences and other vehicular traffic in the residential subdivision. Insignificant stationary source air emissions are also currently being generated at the site. After completion of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative, no residential structures would be located on the site; therefore, no mobile-source or stationary-source air emission would be generated at the site.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Insignificant mobile source air emissions are currently generated by the approximately 1,100 AFRC personnel's privately owned vehicles (POV) using the parking lots associated with the on-base facilities and off-base leased facilities. The existing AFRC facilities are used for administrative purposes only. Insignificant stationary source air emissions are also generated from a diesel fuel-powered emergency currently located at AFRC Building 210. The generator unit consists of a 400 kilowatt (KW) Caterpillar unit which has an associated 1,000-gallon diesel fuel tank. This unit is run 2 hours per month for testing purposes to verify proper operation and could run for a 72-hour period in the event of a power outage.

3.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TOXIC MATERIALS

3.3.1 Wastewater

Base-generated sanitary sewage is treated at Robins AFB's sanitary sewage treatment plant, and effluent is monitored for biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, coliform bacteria, pH, oil and grease, ammonia, metals, suspended solids and chlorine. Discharges currently are within National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits.

Proposed Action Site - Sanitary sewer service is currently provided to the remaining occupied residences at the Proposed Action Site. A main line of the sanitary sewer system traverses the middle of the site from north to south. All of the housing minor mains tie into this line, which flows to the south and connects to a larger main. After

completion of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative, no residential structures will be located on the site; therefore, no sanitary sewage will be generated at the site. No industrial wastewater is generated within the boundaries of the Proposed Action Site

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Sanitary sewer service is currently provided to the existing AFRC facilities. Sanitary sewage is generated by the approximately 1,100 AFRC personnel. No industrial wastewater is currently generated by the existing AFRC facilities.

3.3.2 Solid Waste

Solid wastes are generated from all areas of Robins AFB, including base housing, municipal operations, office complexes, industrial facilities, and construction/demolition areas. An Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) has been developed to establish an integrated approach to dealing with solid waste management issues at Robins AFB (Robins AFB, 2008). The approach includes source reduction, recycling, and disposal. Solid wastes that cannot be recycled are collected and transported to the Houston County landfill for disposal. Houston County has committed to providing solid waste disposal services to Robins AFB and has a permitted facility with 40 years of useful life. Approximately 50 years of additional capacity could be acquired through expansion of the landfill if needed. Solid wastes destined for recycling are collected at various locations on base in waste- specific containers or are turned in to the DRMO.

Proposed Action Site – Solid waste associated with the remaining residential occupants/activities is generated at the Proposed Action Site. This solid waste includes kitchen waste, paper, plastics, metal and glass containers, and standard housekeeping materials, and is handled in accordance with Robins AFB's ISWMP. After completion of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative, no residential structures will be located on the site; therefore, no solid waste will be generated at the site.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Solid waste associated with the activities at the existing AFRC facilities includes kitchen waste, paper, plastics, metal and glass containers, and standard housekeeping materials, and is handled in accordance with Robins AFB's ISWMP. The quantities and types are consistent with those generated by typical office operations.

3.3.3 Hazardous Materials and Waste

Hazardous materials are stored and handled in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1200(e) through (h), *Hazard Communication*. Hazardous waste is managed under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) *Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste* (40 CFR Part 262), Georgia Rule 391-3-11, *Hazardous Waste Management*, and Robins AFB's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit [Hazard Waste Facility Permit HW-064(S)]. Universal waste is stored and handled in accordance with the *Standards for Universal Waste Management* (40 CFR Part 273). All hazardous waste is handled and disposed of in accordance with Robins AFB's *Hazardous Waste Management Plan*, (Robins AFB, 2004) Robins AFB's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, and all local, state, and Federal regulations.

No hazardous materials are stored and no hazardous waste is currently generated at the Proposed Action Site or the existing AFRC facilities sites.

3.3.4 Toxic Materials

Background information relative to toxic materials as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 12.3 of Appendix A**.

Proposed Action Site - The residences located within the boundaries of the Proposed Action Site contain asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP). No polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing electrical transformer units are located within the boundaries of this site. Given the construction dates of the residential

structures (between the late 1950s and 1970), the potential exists for PCB-containing fluorescent light ballasts to be present in the structures. The presence of on-site toxic materials (ACM, LBP and PCBs) at this site will be addressed as a part of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative, and thus none will be located on site after completion of the MFH action.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - Comprehensive surveys for ACM and LBP have not been performed for the existing on-base AFRC facilities. Given the construction date of some the structures (prior to 1990), the potential exists for ACM to be present in the buildings; and (prior to 1978), the potential exists for LBP to be present in the buildings. No PCB-containing electrical transformer units are located within the boundaries of the sites. Given the construction date of some the structures (prior to 1978), the potential exists for PCB-containing fluorescent light ballasts to be present in the buildings. All identified and potential ACM and LBP are addressed and maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Due to the age of the leased facilities, the potential exists for asbestos-containing materials (ACM), lead-based paint (LBP), and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing equipment to be present. However, AFRC has not introduced toxic substances to the property. Robins AFB has conducted house-keeping that has maintained the internal building finishes in good condition, and has not used, installed, abated, or disposed of any toxic building materials on site during the lease term.

3.4 NOISE ENVIRONMENT

Proposed Action Site - No significant noise is currently being generated from the Proposed Action Site. Off-site noise is generated by vehicles on the adjacent roadways and aircraft on the nearby airfield. Robins AFB completed noise modeling in 1997 as part of an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) study (Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, 2004). The AICUZ is primarily concerned with identifying areas with elevated noise levels (greater or equal to 65 decibels) in order to promote compatible land uses (65 decibels is the maximum background noise level

determined by scientific research to allow acceptable outdoor conversation in a normal voice and is below the sound level established to protect against hearing loss). On-base personnel expect elevated noise levels and are protected in accordance with DoD and OSHA health and safety requirements, where applicable. The noise modeling contours were based on the Day-Night Average Noise Level (DNL), in units of decibels (dB). The annual average DNL is a descriptor used by the Air Force to assess exposure to aircraft noise, predict community response to various noise levels and identify compatible land uses. Based on the most recent noise contour data, the Proposed Action Site is located in an area subject to levels below 65 decibel day/night levels (Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, 2004). These decibel levels are equivalent to those produced by a normal conversation, moderate rainfall or a washing machine. These levels are below the Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH)-established exposure limit of 85 decibels (by 8-hour time weighted average) that requires use of Personal Protective Equipment to protect hearing.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - No significant noise is currently being generated from the existing AFRC facilities. On-site noise is primarily generated by POVs from AFRC personnel. Noise generated by the AFRC band (either during rehearsal or performance) is conducted inside an appropriate performance facility or exterior setting. Off-site noise is generated by vehicles on the adjacent roadways and aircraft on the nearby airfield. Based on the most recent noise contour data, the existing core AFRC campus facilities (Buildings 208, 210, 211, 220, 221 and 222) are located in an area subject to levels between 65 and 70 decibel day/night levels (Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, 2004). These decibel levels are equivalent to those produced by a normal conversation, soft music or normal traffic. The remaining AFRC facilities (Building 610, Building 763 and B2200) are located in areas subject to levels below 65 decibel day/night levels (Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, 2004).

These levels are below the AFOSH-established exposure limit of 85 decibels (by 8-hour time weighted average) that requires use of Personal Protective Equipment to protect hearing.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Background information relative to biological environment as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 5.0** of **Appendix A**.

3.5.1 Flora

Proposed Action Site - The areas around the residences at the Proposed Action Site have been disturbed by previous construction activities and contain mostly developed, landscaped or impervious surfaces. However, the flora located at this site does include approximately 10 acres of mature hardwoods and pines located along the periphery of the site and interspersed between the residences. In addition, areas of landscaped grasses and landscaped shrubs and trees are located at each of the residential dwellings. The demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative will remove the on-site residential structures and some of the associated shrubs and trees at the dwellings.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - The existing AFRC sites and surrounding areas have been disturbed by previous grading and construction activities, and contain mostly developed or impervious surfaces. Flora located at the sites includes landscaped grasses, shrubs and scattered hardwood and conifer trees, typically located along the periphery of the buildings and facility grounds.

3.5.2 Fauna

Proposed Action Site - The areas around the residences at the Proposed Action Site have been disturbed by previous construction activities and contain mostly residences, roads, landscaped or impervious surfaces. The site offers minimal habitat for fauna, mainly limited to trees and shrubs, which small mammals and birds could use. The Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) were observed at the site at the time of the September 2007 site visit. The demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative will remove the on-site residential structures and some of the landscaped habitat.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites – The existing AFRC sites and surrounding areas have been disturbed by previous grading and construction activities, and contain mostly developed or impervious surfaces. These sites offer minimal habitat for fauna. No fauna was observed during the site visit performed in support of this EA.

3.5.3 Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species

No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species or their habitats are located on or adjacent to the Proposed Action Site or the existing AFRC sites.

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The archeological and cultural resources of Robins AFB are summarized in the *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan* (ICRMP) (Robins AFB, 2005). The base has been completely surveyed for archaeological sites and historic structures/districts, and the survey work has been reviewed and accepted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division (HPD) / State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Background information relative to cultural resources as it relates to Robins AFB is presented in **Section 6.0** of **Appendix A**.

Proposed Action Site – Four archaeological sites have been recorded on or immediately adjacent to the Proposed Action Site to the north and south. The two on-site features (9Ht44 and 9Ht170) and one of the off-site features are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Georgia SHPO has concurred with this determination. An additional feature (9Ht172), is located in the area of a planned fitness trail (north of Duck Lake) associated with the HQ AFRC Campus. This feature is eligible for listing on the NRHP, a determination with which the Georgia SHPO concurred.

No structures listed or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP are located on the Proposed Action Site. The closest NRHP site identified in the area is the Chiefs Circle residential housing site located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the Proposed

Action Site. The Chiefs Circle housing site's viewshed does not include the Proposed Action Site.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites – The existing AFRC facilities are located in heavily developed areas of Robins AFB. No archaeological sites have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the sites. Only one of the existing AFRC facilities (Building 220) is eligible for listing on the NRHP. No other structures listed or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP are located on the sites or in the viewshed of the sites.

3.7 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Socioeconomic resources include the basic attributes and resources associated with the human environment. In particular, this includes population and economic activity. Economic activity typically encompasses employment, personal income and industrial growth.

Proposed Action Site – The Proposed Action Site is currently developed with residential structures (60 structures comprising 100 units). All occupants will relocate prior to or as part of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative regardless of actions undertaken related to AFRC operations or facilities. The residences will be demolished as a part of the MFH Privatization Initiative. Expenditures associated with the demolition activities are assigned to the MFH Privatization Initiative.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites – AFRC operations are currently located in nine on-base facilities and two off-base leased facilities. The current AFRC facilities primarily serve as the administrative headquarters of the Air Force Reserve. There are approximately 1,100 people stationed at HQ AFRC. The staff incorporates a mix of active-duty Air Force members, Air Force reservists on extended active duty, Air Reserve Technicians and civil service employees to perform the mission. This combination includes 50 percent civilian employees, 19 percent active-duty personnel, 13 percent Active Guard Reserve members, 9 percent traditional reservists, 8 percent Air Reserve Technicians, and 1 percent Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA). Approximately 850 AFRC

personnel are located in the on-base facilities and approximately 250 AFRC personnel are located in the off-base leased facilities. The headquarters staff and AFRC members assigned to Robins AFB account for a total annual economic impact of more than \$108 million for the Middle Georgia community.

3.8 TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

At Robins AFB, safety issues are those that directly affect the protection of human life and property, and principally involve aviation, munitions and fire prevention. In addition, Air Force personnel are protected by observing OSHA, Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH) standards, Robins AFB safety requirements and RCRA (see **Section 3.3.3**).

Proposed Action Site - The following residential streets are located within the boundaries of the Proposed Action Site: Cherry Circle, Cherry Court, Cherry Drive, Cherry Terrace, Lakeside Circle and Lakeside Drive. The roadways surrounding the Proposed Action Site include: Robins Parkway to the west and Warner Robins Street to the east. Direct access to the Proposed Action Site from Robins Parkway is currently by Cherry Drive and Lakeside Drive. Robins Parkway is the primary north-south delivery system between the northern and southern portions of base. It is the installation's premier roadway and acts as the distinguished visitor (DV) route. The parkway itself is a four-lane (undivided, not like a true parkway) road with bends and topographic changes near the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, immediately to the north of the Proposed Action Site. Approximate traffic volumes on this roadway of 1,320 cars per hour are considered average to low for this type of roadway. Currently, no transportation or safety issues are associated with the site or the surrounding roads. When the Proposed Action Site was occupied by the Lakeside residential subdivision, approximately 250 POVs were located in this area.

Existing AFRC Facilities Sites - HQ AFRC functions are currently located in nine on base facilities and two off-base leased facilities. Approximately 1,100 total AFRC personnel access these facilities using POVs operated on base roadways and off-base

roadways. Of these approximately 1,100 personnel, approximately 250 personnel are located in off-base leased facilities. These personnel routinely travel onto base as a part of their duties (approximately 1 to 2 times per day, 3 to 4 times per week). It is estimated that vehicles enter and exit the facilities several times per day with the heaviest concentrations around work start, end and lunchtime. Currently, no transportation or safety issues are associated with these sites or the surrounding roads.

AFRC has approximately 250 personnel located in two off-base leased spaces that are not compliant with AT/FP Standards found in UFC 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings* (DoD, 2003), which establishes AT/FP requirements for off-base facilities similar to those on military installations. This directive must be applied to all leased DoD space by 01 Oct 09.

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This chapter describes the potential environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. Potential effects of actions are based on the description of the actions as presented in **Section 2** and existing environmental conditions of each site as presented in **Section 3**. Environmental effects from the No-Action Alternative address effects as they currently occur or could occur in the future. Although specific information regarding the exact placement of buildings/roads and planned storm water management features is not available at this time, the final HQ AFRC Campus design features will be modified as needed to address issues related to reducing impervious surface area, changing vehicle entry/egress points and the construction of permanent storm water retention basins. [It should be noted that at this time no definitive decision has been reached regarding what agencies/operations would occupy the vacated AFRC spaces, which buildings would be demolished (if any), what operations would be affected and where these operations would be relocated.] Environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the relocation of WR-ALC operations are not within the scope of this analysis.

4.1 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4.1.1 Topography

4.1.1.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the topography of Robins AFB would remain unchanged because no construction would occur. Existing AFRC operations would continue in their current locations. In addition, the topography at Robins AFB is not currently being significantly impacted by the activities at the subject sites.

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to the topography at or near Robins AFB.

4.1.1.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: The construction phase of the Proposed Action would require moderate grading, cutting and filling of the central portion of the Proposed Action Site due to the current topography and based on preliminary information regarding the design of the facility. No significant positive or significant adverse impacts to topography would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. See **Section 4.1.4.2** for potential impacts to surface waters from soil erosion and storm water runoff.

AFRC Operations: No change to, or positive or adverse impacts to topography would result from the operational aspects of the Proposed Action because no functions affecting the site topography would occur as a part of AFRC operations.

4.1.2 Surface Waters

4.1.2.1 No-Action Alternative

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to surface waters near Robins AFB because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. Surface waters would remain unchanged and surface waters are not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites.

4.1.2.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Construction of the HQ AFRC campus would not cause significant adverse impacts to surface waters because the base requires the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction operations. Plans and specifications for the new AFRC facilities would be reviewed and approved identifying appropriate design of BMPs to control land disturbance and storm water runoff so as not to cause significant adverse impacts to surface waters. Stream buffers and natural conditions would be maintained along the waterways to minimize impacts to these areas.

A 25-foot buffer is required for all streams per the Rules of the State of Georgia (RSG) 391-3-7 Erosion and Sedimentation. See **Section 4.1.4.2** for potential impacts to surface waters from soil erosion and storm water runoff during construction activities, and additional BMP information.

AFRC Operations: AFRC operations that would occur outdoors include the filling of a diesel fuel AST and parking of POVs by AFRC personnel. Diesel fuel for the proposed emergency generator unit would be delivered to and stored at the site. Approximately 1,360 POVs would be parked in facility parking areas at the site. Storm water flowing over the new impervious surfaces including the new buildings and asphalt-paved roads would flow into the storm sewer system and discharge to various types of on-site storm water interceptor systems.

The base uses BMPs during day-to-day operations to reduce the potential for products such as diesel fuel for the emergency generator and leaks of liquids from on-site parked vehicles to adversely affect surface water. The BMPs address the control and cleanup of inadvertent releases of potential contaminants before a release could adversely affect surface water. These BMPs also address AST filling procedures and having spill control materials on hand during filling to control potential spillage, so as not to cause significant adverse impacts to surface water.

4.1.3 Floodplains and Wetlands

4.1.3.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, floodplain characteristics would remain unchanged and wetlands would not be impacted because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, these resources are not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would cause neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to floodplain characteristics and wetlands near Robins AFB.

4.1.3.2 Proposed Action

The construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus and future AFRC operations associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to floodplains or wetlands. No changes to the 100-year floodplain or to existing wetland areas near or receiving storm water runoff from the site would occur under the Proposed Action. BMPs used during site development including silt fencing, hay bales, erosion blankets, geotextile matting on steep slopes, check dams in drainage swales, diversion berms, and sediment basins would prevent the site surface water features (Duck Lake and the associated intermittent stream) from being adversely impacted during construction activities.

As part of the Proposed Action, a bridge for facility vehicles would be constructed over the intermittent stream located on the eastern half of the property. This bridge would be used to connect the campus to Warner Robins Street. Also a pedestrian bridge is planned for construction over Duck Lake, over an existing aboveground sanitary sewage line. The proposed pedestrian bridge and vehicle bridge could result in the requirement of Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Section 401 Certification from the Georgia EPD. The need for permitting would be evaluated during the final design process of the bridges. Bridge development or other general construction activity may not enter the stream buffer area, without an approved Stream Buffer Variance application, per Section 391-3-7.05 (Buffer Variance Procedures and Criteria) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) Rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

4.1.4 Storm Water

4.1.4.1 No-Action Alternative

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would cause neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to storm water near Robins AFB because no changes to storm

water or the storm water conveyance system would occur, and storm water is not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities on the sites.

4.1.4.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Construction of the HQ AFRC Campus would not cause significant adverse impacts to storm water. The proposed construction of the HQ AFRC Campus and associated grounds would impact approximately 15 acres at the Proposed Action Site. The excavation of possible debris and fill and grading operations would increase the potential for soil erosion and degradation of surface water runoff. Approved designs for erosion and sediment control would include structural and vegetative BMPs and would prevent significant adverse impacts to Duck Lake and downstream waterways during the construction phase. The new facility and associated paved areas would cover approximately 15 acres of the Proposed Action Site.

Impervious area at the Proposed Action Site would increase, as a greater percentage of the site's surface area would be covered by buildings and pavement increasing the rate and volume of storm water runoff. The construction project would be designed and the existing area would be modified to include low impact development (LID) features to sufficiently delay runoff of surface water from high-intensity storms and control erosion and subsequent sedimentation. Bridge development or other general construction activity would not enter the stream buffer area, without an approved Stream Buffer Variance application. These measures would prevent an increase in the rate and volume of storm water runoff and prevent significant adverse impacts. Examples of low-impact development that would be used as post-development BMPs include pervious parking areas, filter boxes, grass swales, bioretention swales and/or underground storage reservoirs.

In addition to meeting applicable building codes for the construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus facilities, the building contractor would be required to satisfy all relevant environmental requirements, submittals and permits related to the proposed project. The permit process includes submission of Notice of Intent for permit coverage under

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit 100001 to discharge storm water associated with construction activity; development and approval of an Erosion, Sediment and Pollution Control Plan that meets the requirements of the Permit, while written in accordance with Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's *Manual for Sediment and Erosion Control in Georgia*, (5th Edition); following of the applicable county water protection ordinance; obtaining a Houston County Sediment and Erosion Control Permit; submittal of land disturbance fees to Georgia EPD and Houston County; obtaining a dig permit from 78 CEG to identify underground utilities; review of the base's day-to-day BMP operations and plans; and submission of a Notice of Termination to Georgia EPD following completion of work when site conditions meet the definition of "final stabilization." Permit requirements also include performing routine site inspections, sampling storm water discharges from the construction site, and analyzing turbidity of storm water runoff, performed in accordance with 40 CFR 136.

All permit applications would be submitted to 78 CEG/CEAO for review prior to final submittal to governing authorities.

AFRC Operations: See **Section 4.1.2.2** regarding the discussion of potential impacts to surface water from storm water runoff. No operations would occur outdoors that would result in adverse impacts to storm water.

4.1.5 Geology and Soils

4.1.5.1 No-Action Alternative

No changes to geology or soils at the subject sites or Robins AFB would occur under the No-Action Alternative because construction would not occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, these resources are not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. Conducting no action would produce neither significant positive nor significant negative effects.

4.1.5.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC: Geology would not be affected as a result of construction activities, as construction activities would not be deep enough to affect geologic resources. As discussed previously in **Section 4.1.4.2**, as a result of construction activities associated with the Proposed Action, the potential for soil erosion and the potential for eroded soil to adversely affect the quality of storm water runoff would increase. However, due to the base's use of BMPs during the course of day-to-day construction operations, and plans to use BMPs such as silt fencing, hay bales, erosion blankets, geotextile matting on steep slopes, check dams in drainage swales, diversion berms, and sediment basins during the construction of the HQ AFRC Campus, soil erosion and the quality of storm water runoff would be controlled so as not to cause significant adverse impacts.

Chlordane-impacted soils associated with the previous residential use of the site will be addressed as a part of the demolition effort associated with the MFH Privatization Initiative. Chlordane-impacted soil contamination at this site, if detected and encountered during excavation activities associated with residential building demolition will be removed prior to implementation of the Proposed Action. If site development activities associated with the Proposed Action require removal of soil from the site, sampling and analyses would be conducted by the contractor prior to construction to identify proper disposal methods to be followed for the potentially chlordane-contaminated soils. Any remaining chlordane-impacted soils would be managed and disposed of appropriately. Any hazardous waste generated would be disposed of through the DRMO.

AFRC Operations: Future AFRC operations at the HQ AFRC Campus would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to the geology or soils at Robins AFB because no functions affecting the site geology and soil would occur as part of AFRC operations.

4.1.6 Groundwater

4.1.6.1 No-Action Alternative

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to groundwater because no changes to groundwater resources would occur and groundwater is not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites.

4.1.6.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: The construction phase of the Proposed Action would not impact groundwater at the site as the new construction would not be deep enough to impact or intersect groundwater. Conducting the Proposed Action would produce neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to groundwater.

AFRC Operations: Future AFRC operations associated with the Proposed Action would not impact groundwater at Robins AFB and would produce neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to groundwater.

4.1.7 Water Supply and Drinking Water

4.1.7.1 No-Action Alternative

No changes to existing water supply impacts and drinking water resources and usage would occur under the No-Action Alternative because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, these resources are not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to water supply and drinking water.

4.1.7.2 Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not affect the existing water supply at Robins AFB to a significant degree, and overall drinking water consumption at Robins AFB would not increase significantly as a result of the Proposed Action.

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Existing water pipes located on and in the area surrounding the Proposed Action Site would be tied into the new facility as a result of construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus. The existing loop system that feeds the current residential structures would be replaced. The primary feeder main line running parallel to Robins Parkway is relatively close and of adequate capacity to handle the anticipated load of the new HQ AFRC Campus. Potential impacts to surface waters and soils as a result of the construction activities are discussed in **Sections 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.5.2**, respectively.

Construction activities would be scheduled to minimize disruption of water service. Water service would be interrupted for a short time period and could occur over a weekend to further minimize disruption to customers.

Limited amounts of water would be used for curing of concrete and other related construction activities. The amount required would be insignificant when compared to availability of potable water at Robins AFB.

AFRC Operations: Water utilization at the new HQ AFRC Campus would consist primarily of sanitary uses by approximately 1,360 full-time facility personnel and would be generally consistent with water usage at the existing on-base AFRC facilities. Approximately 250 personnel currently located in the off-base leased facilities would be relocated to the new AFRC facility. Because the amount of water drawn from the local water supply (as associated with AFRC mission-related personnel at these leased facilities) is insignificant when compared to the total population in the Warner Robins area and to the total number of personnel at Robins AFB, these AFRC operations would not cause significant adverse impacts to the water supply. Potable water usage would

increase as a result of the approximately 566 additional personnel (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) at the HQ AFRC campus. This constitutes an approximate 2 percent increase of usage of the base's water supply. The current water use is estimated to be approximately a quarter of the available capacity. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not affect the existing water supply at Robins AFB to a significant degree and the overall drinking water consumption at Robins AFB would not increase to a significant degree as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.2 AIR QUALITY

Potential air emissions resulting from the Proposed Action and No-Action Alternative have been evaluated based on the Clean Air Act as amended. The effects of an action are considered significant if they increase ambient air pollution concentrations above NAAQS, contribute to an existing violation of NAAQS, or interfere with or delay the attainment of NAAQS.

4.2.1 No-Action Alternative

No changes to air emissions would occur under the No-Action Alternative because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, air quality is not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to air emissions.

4.2.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Construction of the HQ AFRC Campus would not cause significant adverse impacts to air quality due to fugitive dust. This is because the base uses BMPs routinely during the course of day-to-day operations. The BMPs for dust would include procedures for wetting disturbed portions of the project areas during periods of excessive dryness, thereby avoiding any significant adverse impacts.

It is estimated that the design/build construction process for the new HQ AFRC Campus would begin in calendar year (CY) 2010 and be completed approximately 24 months later. Implementation of the Proposed Action would increase emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from construction employee traffic and operation of heavy equipment during this approximately 24-month time period. However, because the increase in commutation trips and emissions from construction worker vehicles would be temporary and emissions from heavy vehicles would also be relatively limited in quantity and duration, these emissions would be insignificant.

AFRC Operations: Since the total number of AFRC personnel at Robins AFB would increase by 260 new fulltime personnel (Mon – Fri) and 306 new part-time personnel (1 weekend per month and 2 weeks per year), the amount of air emissions from employee vehicles would increase mobile emission sources. The mobile emission sources would not change air emissions at Robins AFB to a significant degree when compared to the current total emissions associated with Robins AFB and would not increase ambient air pollution concentrations above NAAQS.

An emergency generator unit would be installed at the new HQ AFRC Campus. If the unit is manufactured after 01 Apr 06, the manufacturer must certify that the engine meets the emissions standards in 40 CFR 60 Subpart IIII (60.4200 - 60.4219). If this certification is not available, local testing will be required and add-on controls will be needed if the unit does not meet the emission standards in the regulations. Given the size (a 400 kilowatt unit) and limited use of the generator (during power outages and testing), the unit does not represent a significant air emissions source, and Robins AFB's air permit will be modified to include the new air emission source associated with the new facility.

Based on the above-described assessment, implementation of the Proposed Action would not cause violations of the NAAQS and would not significantly increase air emissions at Robins AFB. Air emissions associated with the Proposed Action would be compliant with Robins AFB's Title V permit.

4.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TOXIC MATERIALS

4.3.1 Wastewater

4.3.1.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, sanitary and industrial wastewater would not be affected. Sanitary wastewater would continue to be generated by the existing AFRC facilities at current levels. Industrial wastewater is not generated at the existing AFRC facilities. Thus, implementation of the No-Action Alternative would not result in significant adverse or significant positive impacts to the environment as it relates to wastewater.

4.3.1.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: The new HQ AFRC Campus facilities would be connected to the existing sanitary sewer system main line that traverses the center of the site in a north-south orientation. This line is more than adequate to handle the sanitary effluent from the proposed development. Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would produce neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to sanitary and industrial wastewater generation at Robins AFB.

AFRC Operations: Sanitary wastewater would be generated at the new HQ AFRC Campus facility by AFRC personnel that would be relocated from the existing AFRC Facilities (on base and off base). The existing sanitary wastewater system line crossing the Proposed Action Site would be tapped into and used for the disposal of sanitary wastewater generated by AFRC operations. The amounts and types of wastewater would be similar to those generated by the current operations located in the existing AFRC facilities. Approximately 250 personnel currently located in the off-base leased facilities would be relocated to the new AFRC facility, in addition to the 566 personnel (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) associated with the command and control function consolidation at Robins AFB. The approximately 566 new personnel (260 fulltime and

306 part-time) at the site would generate an estimated 15,000 gallons of sanitary wastewater per day. The impact to the wastewater treatment plant would not be significant based on the plant's capacity of 3.3 million gallons per day (MGD) and the current average of approximately 2.5 MGD. Because the amount of additional sanitary wastewater generated (as associated with AFRC mission-related personnel at these leased facilities and across the country) is insignificant when compared to the total number of personnel at Robins AFB, AFRC operations would not cause significant adverse impacts to the sanitary wastewater system.

No industrial wastewater generation would occur as a part of AFRC operations. AFRC operations would produce neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to sanitary and industrial wastewater generation at Robins AFB.

4.3.2 Solid Waste

4.3.2.1 No-Action Alternative

No significant adverse or significant positive impacts would occur to solid waste and the physical environment as it relates to solid waste because no change in the volume or handling of solid waste would occur at Robins AFB, and existing solid waste handling and disposal does not significantly impact the physical environment.

4.3.2.2 Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no significant positive or significant negative impacts to solid waste or to the physical environment as it relates to solid waste. As stated in **Section 3.3.2**, Houston County has committed to providing solid waste disposal services to Robins AFB, has a permitted facility with 40 years of useful life, and the county could acquire approximately 50 years of additional capacity through expansion of the landfill if needed. Hence, adequate space is available in the Houston County landfill for the solid waste that would be generated from this project.

Waste materials containing ACM or LBP would be handled in accordance with applicable regulations (see **Section 4.3.4.2**).

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Conducting the Proposed Action would temporarily increase the generation of solid waste from construction activities at the new HQ AFRC Campus site. Waste materials would be separated for reuse and recycling to the extent possible. Waste that is not recyclable would be disposed by the building contractor in approved local landfill facilities.

AFRC Operations: Waste would be generated on a long-term basis from operation of the new HQ AFRC facility, and would be similar in amount and type to that currently generated. Approximately 250 personnel currently located in the off-base leased facilities would be relocated and added to the new AFRC facility, in addition to the 566 personnel (206 fulltime and 306 part-time) associated with the command and control function consolidation at Robins AFB. The amount of solid wastes generated (as associated with AFRC mission-related personnel at these leased facilities) is insignificant when compared to the total population in the Warner Robins area and to the total number of personnel at Robins AFB. The increase of approximately 816 AFRC personnel is approximately 3 percent of the current workforce. Wastes would be recycled to the extent possible and would not cause significant environmental effects.

Solid wastes generated in association with the Proposed Action would be handled in accordance with Robins AFB's ISWMP.

4.3.3 Hazardous Materials and Waste

4.3.3.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, use of hazardous materials and generation of hazardous waste would not be affected because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, these resources are not currently being significantly impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. The No-Action

Alternative would cause neither significant positive nor significant negative environmental effects related to hazardous materials and hazardous waste.

4.3.3.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Hazardous materials, such as fuels for construction equipment and vehicles, would be used during the site development and construction activities. These materials would be used and handled in accordance with Robins AFB's HWMP and all applicable regulations, and significant adverse impacts would not occur due to their usage.

As previously discussed, chlordane could be present in soils at the Proposed Action Site. If on-site soils or pavement require removal from the site, sampling and analyses would be conducted by the contractor prior to construction to identify proper disposal methods to be followed. If concentrations of chlordane exceed the facility's background concentrations, 78 CEG/CEAO would submit notification, as necessary, pursuant to Robins AFB's Hazardous Waste Management Permit No. HW-064(S), to the Georgia EPD Hazardous Waste Management Branch. If any hazardous waste were generated during the excavation/construction activities, this would result in a negative effect on the environment. However, removal of chlordane-contaminated pavement and soils, if present, would be a positive effect of the project.

AFRC Operations: Hazardous waste would not be generated on a short-term or long-term basis from AFRC operations at the new HQ AFRC site. Universal wastes (fluorescent bulbs) generated from the use of light fixtures would be stored and handled in accordance with the *Standards for Universal Waste Management* (40 CFR Part 273) and Robins AFB's HWMP.

Hazardous wastes generated in association with the Proposed Action would be handled and disposed of in accordance with Robins AFB's HWMP, the facility's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, and all local, state, and Federal regulations.

4.3.4 Toxic Materials

4.3.4.1 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would cause neither significant positive nor significant negative environmental effects related to toxic materials and toxic waste because toxic materials would not be affected and these materials are not currently significantly impacting the environment.

4.3.4.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Implementation of the Proposed Action would not significantly adversely or significantly positively impact toxic materials or toxic waste or the environment as it relates to these materials because no known ACMs, LBPs, PCBs or PCB-containing equipment would be disturbed by construction at the Proposed Action Site. Furthermore, if encountered, any materials and waste would be managed and disposed of per applicable regulations.

AFRC Operations: Operations would not involve the use of ACM, LBP or PCB-containing equipment as the use of these materials in new construction at Robins AFB is currently prohibited. Thus, future AFRC operations at the new facility would not result in significant adverse impacts.

4.4 NOISE ENVIRONMENT

4.4.1 No-Action Alternative

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would not result in significant positive or significant negative effects to the noise environment because the noise environment would not change and the existing noise environment is not significantly impacted by the subject sites or operations at the sites.

4.4.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Site development and new construction activities would not result in significant adverse impacts to the noise environment because these activities would be short-term, localized and sufficiently distanced from the nearest sensitive receptor elements. Workers would wear ear protection, as necessary, for construction activities requiring this level of protection.

AFRC Operations: Noise from future AFRC operations in the new HQ AFRC Campus facilities would be generally consistent with noise from the existing operations, which do not significantly impact the environment. AFRC personnel would be exposed to noise from the surrounding street and nearby airfield. Based on the most recent noise contour data, the Proposed Action Site is located in an area subject to levels below 65 decibel day/night levels.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

4.5.1 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have neither significant positive nor significant negative impacts on the biological environment. Natural resources would not be disturbed.

4.5.2 Proposed Action

No endangered, threatened, or sensitive species would be affected by the Proposed Action at the Proposed Action Site, as no species or their habitats are located in this area.

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: The Proposed Action would not result in a significant impact to wildlife and vegetation due to modification or removal of the minimal amount of existing vegetation on the central portion of the site where the majority of the construction is proposed. Landscaped areas and associated trees located

between the existing residences and an area of trees (hardwoods and pines) encompassing approximately 20,000 square feet of wooded area (less than a half acre) located on the western half of the site would be removed as a part of the site development activities. The majority of the mature hardwood and pine trees located on the northern and southern borders of the Proposed Action Site would not be disturbed during this project. The removal of approximately 20,000 square feet of wooded area at the Proposed Action Site would result in any species living in or using this area having to relocate, and the permanent removal of this habitat on the site itself. The size of this habitat is insignificant and the number of wildlife is estimated to be insignificant when considered in the larger context of Robins AFB (approximately 8,500 acres in size) and the surrounding area.

AFRC Operations: Operations at new HQ AFRC Campus would not result in a significant impact to wildlife and vegetation as these operations would be primarily administrative in nature. In addition, natural areas would be incorporated into the planned site uses such as pedestrian walkways, recreation areas and fitness trails.

4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.6.1 No-Action Alternative

Conducting no action would have no effect on cultural resources because no construction would occur and no changes to AFRC operations would be enacted. In addition, these resources are not currently being impacted by the subject sites or activities at the sites. Cultural resources on Robins AFB would continue to be managed and protected as required by federal and state agencies.

4.6.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Known archaeological sites on the Proposed Action Site would be avoided or otherwise addressed during the design of the new AFRC facilities. Any construction or site development work in areas of recorded archaeological

sites would be coordinated with the Robins AFB Cultural Resources Manager (CRM) prior to commencement. The CRM will send a qualified representative to site to observe work performed in these areas. If artifacts are identified in these areas, excavation activities will cease and plans will be developed to address the resource. When cultural resources are inadvertently discovered, project personnel are directed to avoid the site of discovery and immediately contact the Robins AFB CRM. All work in the area of discovery must stop until it can be investigated. The CRM will send a qualified representative to visit the discovery site. The resource will then be recorded, evaluated, and the effects mitigated as necessary.

No structures listed or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP are located on the Proposed Action Site. No effect on historic cultural resources on Robins AFB would occur due to the construction activities located on the central portion of the site.

AFRC Operations: Operations would not affect archaeological or historic resources at Robins AFB.

4.7 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

4.7.1 No-Action Alternative

The socioeconomic environment would not change significantly under the No-Action Alternative, when compared to the economy associated with Robins AFB and the Warner Robins area. Robins AFB would continue to exert a significant positive impact on the economy of the Middle Georgia region of influence. However, the benefits of construction and operating dollars associated with the new HQ AFRC Campus would not be realized. Minority populations and low-income populations would not be significantly adversely or significantly positively impacted. Nor would significant environmental health risks and safety risks to children occur. Hence, implementation of the No-Action Alternative would result in neither significant positive nor significant negative effects to the socioeconomic environment.

4.7.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would provide additional economic stimulus to the regional economy primarily through new construction expenditures. Construction of the new HQ AFRC Campus is expected to cost approximately \$140 million in the form of construction labor salaries, equipment, materials, site improvements, pavements, communications and utilities. The construction would positively impact the economy, with many expenditures for goods and services supporting the construction contractor being provided by local businesses, during CY 2010 through CY 2012, as the construction would take approximately 24 months to complete.

Under the Proposed Action, termination of the leases at the Corporate Pointe and Belk Matthews facilities would occur. The businesses that own these properties would lose the market income of the properties until leased or sold to another at market value.

Business's loss of market income on the two properties when compared to the total commercial real estate market of Warner Robins, Georgia would not provide noticeable impact to the socioeconomics of the area. As a part of the Proposed Action, all AFRC personnel would relocate onto base. These personnel would continue to live in Warner Robins or other nearby areas, maintaining tax revenues and expenditures to the local economy.

No significant adverse environmental impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Action and no populations (minority, low-income, or otherwise) would be disproportionately impacted; therefore, no significant impacts with regard to environmental justice would occur.

4.8 TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

4.8.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no significant positive or significant adverse effects to transportation or safety. However, AFRC personnel would continue to

work in various facilities located on base and off base. Under the No-Action Alternative, improvements to the working environment and operations within a new HQ AFRC Campus would not be realized under the No-Action Alternative.

4.8.2 Proposed Action

Construction of HQ AFRC Campus: Implementation of the construction phase of the Proposed Action would not significantly positively or significantly adversely impact traffic and safety at Robins AFB or the surrounding area. Construction contractors would be required to follow appropriate Robins AFB and OSHA safety rules during transit to the new AFRC Campus. Construction vehicles would enter base through Gate 4 and drive approximately 0.75 mile to the Proposed Action Site, while construction workers in non-commercial vehicles could enter Robins AFB through any of the other entrance gates.

Construction activities would involve the operation of heavy machinery and other equipment. The base would require the construction contractor to implement actions consistent with governing regulations to ensure worker health and safety during construction.

AFRC Operations: Traffic flow would increase significantly in the area of the Proposed Action Site as the new HQ AFRC Campus became occupied. Approximately 1,100 AFRC personnel plus the 566 (260 fulltime and 306 part-time) command and control personnel relocated to Robins AFB would be located at the new HQ AFRC Campus. When the Proposed Action Site was occupied by the Lakeside residential subdivision, approximately 250 POVs were located in this area. Once the campus is occupied, it is estimated that approximately 1,360 new vehicles would enter and exit the compound several times per day with the heaviest concentrations around work start, end and lunchtime. The installation of control mechanisms such as traffic lights would be included in the development and operations of the site to prevent significant traffic slowdowns and decrease accident potential. Although not currently part of the Proposed Action, the alteration of Robins Parkway to a true divided parkway to improve the ability

of vehicles to make turns onto and from the roadway, as well as roadway straightening and flattening to help improve safety by eliminating blind spots before the intersections could be implemented. In addition, AFRC is considering that an in-depth traffic study be conducted including increased traffic modeling, prior to final design in order to determine the best methods for addressing the increased traffic. Ample parking space would be available on the HQ AFRC Campus for facility personnel. Parking in the current vicinity of existing HQ AFRC will be improved once AFRC moves to its new location. Parking in the existing area is currently crowded

The transfer of AFRC personnel and operations to the new HQ AFRC Campus would enhance the safety of personnel of this command as the new HQ AFRC Campus facilities would meet the AT/FP requirements.

4.9 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations stipulate that potential environmental impacts resulting from cumulative impacts should be considered within an EA. A cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. In accordance with NEPA, a discussion of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, currently under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the near future is presented below. One current project and three future actions were identified as potentially producing cumulative environmental effects in the area of the Proposed Action Site. No recently completed projects were identified as potentially producing cumulative environmental effects in the area of the Proposed Action Site. The actions are described as follows.

Military Family Housing (MFH) Privatization Initiative, Operations and Management (O&M) Demolition Effort: The ongoing O&M demolition effort at the Pine Oak, Forest Park and Lakeside residential subdivisions includes the demolition of all residential structures within the subdivisions. This O&M demolition effort is occurring as a part of the larger MFH privatization initiative

currently in progress. The Proposed Action would also include removal and proper disposal of construction debris, toxic and non-toxic materials located within the structures, and contaminated soil (if any) encountered during the removal of building foundations, pavement and other subsurface features. In order to adequately and safely perform the demolition activities, minimal removal of trees, shrubs and landscaping would occur; and closure, relocation and/or removal of existing underground utilities within the project area would be conducted. The existing roadways would not be removed as a part of the Proposed Action and trees, shrubs and landscaping not affected by the demolition activities would remain in place. This project would temporarily increase the area of permeable land surface (thereby potentially decreasing storm water runoff) and temporarily increase air emissions, noise, traffic volume and volume of solid waste and toxic materials generated by demolition activities.

Demolition of Chiefs Circle Residential Subdivision: As a part of its base realignment plan (Area Development Plan), Robins AFB has proposed physical relocation of various functions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of base functions and operations. The current use of the Chiefs Circle site is not in conformance with planned base realignment goals. After completion of the MFH Privatization Initiative in FY 08, no funds would be available for repair and maintenance of the Chiefs Circle residential structures. Demolition of the existing Chiefs Circle residential structures, would include demolition of five two-story duplexes and four associated open carports. The Proposed Action would also include removal and proper disposal of construction debris, toxic and non-toxic materials located within the structures, and contaminated soil (if any) encountered during the removal of building foundations, pavement and other subsurface features. In order to adequately and safely perform the demolition activities, minimal removal of trees, shrubs and landscaping would occur; and closure, relocation and/or removal of existing underground utilities within the project area would be conducted. The existing roadway would not be removed as a part of the Proposed Action and trees, shrubs and landscaping not affected by the demolition activities would remain in place. This project would temporarily increase the area of permeable land surface (thereby potentially decreasing storm water runoff) and temporarily increase air emissions, noise, traffic volume and volume of solid waste and toxic materials generated by demolition activities.

New General Purpose Warehouse: The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) proposes to construct a General Purpose Warehouse (GPW) at the northwestern corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Robins Parkway. The new GPW would consist of a 167,575 square-foot, one-story building (used primarily as warehouse space) and a small annex for administrative space. Operations would involve receiving and breaking down pallets of commodities and building up and shipping out new pallets of commodities, or receiving and shipping out built-up pallets as a whole. One hundred new employees would be hired for the GPW, which would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All truck staging and parking would occur on this site and existing parking areas on or adjacent to the site would be available for personal vehicle parking. The construction activities associated with this project would increase the area of impermeable land surface by approximately 5 acres, and temporarily increase air emissions, noise, traffic volume and volume of solid waste and toxic materials generated by construction/demolition activities. On a long-term basis, this project would increase the amount of storm water runoff, generation of solid waste and sanitary wastewater, the consumption of potable water, and the number of vehicles on local roadways and entering Robins AFB. Depending on workload, the new GPW would generate an estimated maximum of 25 trips of new truck, tug and transporter trips on side streets, mainly including Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins Street, Robins Parkway, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Byron Street and Page Road, between existing warehouse space and the new GPW. Due to the limited number of trips expected per day and proximity of the majority of existing warehouse space to the new GPW, this increase in traffic would not result in a significant impact.

New Security Forces Facility: A new Security Forces Facility is proposed for construction on Eastman Street at the northeastern corner of the Robins Parkway and Watson Boulevard. The site is an approximately 3-acre parcel of undeveloped land, a portion of which is currently used for parking. The Security Forces facility would consist of a new approximately 40,500-square foot, two-story Security Forces facility building and an associated parking/storage area capable of accommodating 400 personnel. Existing Security Forces operations currently located in Buildings 261, 263 and 327 would relocate to this facility. The new facility would include: investigations offices, pass and registration areas, supply/equipment storage, training areas, armory, law enforcement and security control centers, and corrections and administrative areas. Additional site features

would include on-site separate parking areas for Security Forces vehicles and other privately owned vehicles. The construction activities associated with this project would increase the area of impermeable land surface by approximately 2 acres thereby increasing the amount of storm water runoff, and temporarily increase air emissions, noise, traffic volume and volume of solid waste and toxic materials generated by construction/demolition activities. A long-term increase in traffic would result in the area of the Proposed Action site; however, the approximately 0.5-mile commute between existing Security Forces buildings would be eliminated. This would provide a more efficient process and eliminate transportation through congested areas, thus resulting in easier and safer transit.

New Command Post Facility: A new Command Post / Installation Control Center (ICC) facility is proposed for construction near the northeastern corner of 10th Street and Robins Parkway, adjacent and southeast of Building 905. The site is an approximately 3-acre parcel of land currently used for recreational activities. The new Command Post / ICC facility would consist of a new approximately 25,800-square foot, single story Command Post / ICC facility building and an associated parking area capable of accommodating approximately 80 personnel. Existing Command Post / ICC operations and 58 staff working in Buildings 300, 368 and 2087 would relocate to the new facility. The new facility would include: a Command Post area with console room; a man-trap area; a storage room; a Command Post staff office to include enclosed offices for command staff positions and open spaces for cubicles to be used by remaining personnel; a battle staff (BS) area to include 30 workstations and 10 guest seats; a Survival Recovery Center (SRC) with a dozen workstations and four guest seats; a conference area; an enclosed office for the Chief of Plans and an-eight cubicle area for office staff; an audio visual room and conference room; restrooms outside and inside the secure Command Post areas; kitchen and break areas; storage room; and computer support room. Additional site features would include ample parking areas for facility employees. The construction activities associated with this project would increase the area of impermeable land surface by approximately 2 acres thereby increasing the amount of storm water runoff, and temporarily increase air emissions, noise, traffic volume and volume of solid waste and toxic materials generated by construction/demolition activities. A long-term increase in traffic would result in the area of the Proposed Action site; however, the approximately 3-mile commute between existing Command Post/ICC buildings would be

eliminated. This would provide a more efficient process and eliminate transportation through congested areas, thus resulting in easier and safer transit.

Potential cumulative effects of the above-listed projects would be addressed through existing permit requirements or by obtaining permit modifications as necessary.

Cumulative increases in storm water runoff due to increased impermeable area at the above-described Proposed Action sites would occur. Site-specific design features would be employed at each of the sites to limit the volume and rate of storm water runoff so that the effect of the cumulative volume of runoff is insignificant. The construction contractors would be required to implement practices under an approved Erosion, Sediment and Pollution Control Plan, designed for the resulting effects on storm water and surface water quality to be insignificant. Implementation of LID design techniques, use of natural areas, and maximizing groundwater infiltration on the sites would reduce the cumulative increases in storm water runoff to prevent significant negative effects to surface waters. Also, the cumulative effect of numerous construction projects on storm water would be addressed, as appropriate, under individual approved Erosion, Sediment and Pollution Control Plans, designed for the resulting effects on cumulative storm water and surface water quality to be insignificant.

The construction phase of these actions would increase carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from construction employee traffic and operation of heavy equipment. However, the increase in emissions from construction worker vehicles would be temporary and insignificant to the environment when considered in the context of Robins AFB and the nearby areas. Operation of the new HQ AFRC Campus would emit minimal air emissions.

Cumulative increases in the generation of solid waste would occur from construction activities. Waste materials would be recycled as feasible and would not be significant when compared to the total solid waste generation for Robins AFB.

Cumulative increases in the generation of hazardous and toxic waste would occur from demolition and construction activities. Contaminated soil, ACM, LBP, PCB-containing equipment would be handled and disposed of in accordance with Robins AFB's HWMP, the facility's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, and all local, state, and Federal regulations, as applicable.

The effects of noise generation from construction activities associated with the projects would be temporary and insignificant. Noise would not have a cumulative adverse effect on the environment.

Conducting these actions would produce slight positive effects within the region of economic influence during the construction of the facilities. The cumulative effect of the projects would result in significant beneficial economic impacts to the local economy.

The construction phase of these actions would temporarily increase construction employee traffic and operation of heavy equipment. Construction contractors would be required to follow appropriate Robins AFB and OSHA safety rules during transit to the sites, and the base would require the construction contractor to implement actions consistent with governing regulations to ensure worker health and safety during construction. Long-term increases in traffic volumes in this area would be addressed through traffic studies including increased traffic modeling, followed by implementation of traffic control devices and roadway design to prevent significant adverse impacts from the increased traffic.

The construction and operation of the new HQ AFRC Campus would not produce significant adverse or significant positive short-term or long-term cumulative effects. As described in the preceding paragraphs of this section of the EA, the remaining environmental resources and elements would not be significantly adversely affected or positively affected on a cumulative basis. Thus, a significant cumulative effect would not occur from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

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APPENDIX A

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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This appendix presents relevant background information on Robins Air Force Base. Only sections relevant to the subject EA are included.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This appendix describes the existing environment in the area potentially affected by the alternatives being evaluated. The chapter begins with a description of the location, history, and current missions of Robins AFB. The remainder of the chapter is organized based on descriptions of the components of the environment that may be affected, in the following order: physical environment, air quality, biological environment, cultural resources, land use, noise environment, safety, socioeconomic resources, infrastructure, and waste management. The effects of the alternatives on the baseline conditions of each environmental component are evaluated in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences.

2.0 BASE DESCRIPTION, HISTORY, AND CURRENT MISSIONS

Not relevant to this EA.

3.0 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The physical environment of the study area is described below based on its principal components: physiography, including topography, surface waters, floodplains, and wetlands; geology; groundwater; and climate.

3.1 Physiography

3.1.1 Topography

Robins AFB is located in central Georgia on the upper margin of the Inner Coastal Plain. The uplands of the base lie in a subprovince of the Fall Line Hills called the Fort Valley Plateau (Clark and Zisa, 1976). Clark and Zisa (1976) describe this area as “distinct from the Fall Line Hills in that the broad, flat-topped interfluvies are the dominant feature, there are fewer streams, and there is less local relief.” The eastern portion of the base is dominated by the Ocmulgee River and its broad floodplain. The erosion action of the Ocmulgee here has created bluffs, high floodplain, deep swamp, meander scars, loops, and oxbow lakes. Sandy Run Creek, along the southern boundary of Robins AFB, has a floodplain up to 2,000 feet wide with a line of low bluffs, five- to fifteen-feet high, to its north.

Elevations on Robins AFB range from a high of 296 feet to a low of approximately 235 feet in the southern section of the base in the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River. Relief is generally minimal on most of the base, rarely over 30 feet locally. The exceptions are the 40-foot high

northeast- and east-facing bluffs near the central portion of the base overlooking the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River. Several ridges less than ten feet above the average elevation of the Ocmulgee floodplain extend into the floodplain.

3.1.2 Surface Waters and Floodplains

Most of the landforms on and around Robins AFB have been affected by the Ocmulgee River, which is one of the dominant watercourses in west-central Georgia and is part of the Altamaha River drainage. The flow of the Ocmulgee River at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station at Warner Robins has ranged from 422 (1981) to 3540 (1981) cubic feet per second (cfs), with a mean annual flow of 1070 cfs (USGS, 1982). The Ocmulgee is the sixth largest river in Georgia based on mean annual flow rate. It has one-twelfth the flow of the Altamaha, Georgia's largest river; one-ninth the flow of the Chattahoochee; and one-eighth the flow of the Savannah (USGS, 1982).

The floodplain of the Ocmulgee River is about three miles wide from bluff to bluff at Robins AFB. The distance from the westernmost bluff of the floodplain on the base to the river averages about two miles. According to flood insurance rate maps of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), nearly all of the Ocmulgee River floodplain at Robins AFB falls into Zone A, the area of 100-year floods (FEMA, 1996a and 1996b).

There are three man-made lakes and several smaller ponds on the base. Duck Lake (8.3 acres in area) is located near the center of the facility. It was created in the 1940s by the construction of a dam (Warner Robins Street) across a natural drainage that empties into the Ocmulgee floodplain. Duck Lake acts as a retention/detention basin and is recharged solely by storm water. Scout Lake (22.4 acres) and Lake Luna (7.7 acres) are both excavated lakes located in the southeastern portion of the facility. Lake Luna was created in 1967-1968 by excavating the area and then lining the bottom with a low permeability material. This lake is recharged primarily from a water supply well. Scout Lake was created in the 1950s by excavation of the lake bottom. The lake is primarily recharged by storm water runoff, but occasionally receives water from the supply well at Lake Luna. Some of the ponds include Patton Pond (just east of Duck Lake) and Alligator Pond (just southeast of the runway area). Several unnamed bodies of standing water occur in old borrow pits on the northern portion of the base.

The upland portion of Robins AFB is drained by four intermittent streams that flow west to east into the Ocmulgee floodplain. Surface water drainage on the northern portion of the base generally flows from west to east from SR 247 to Horse Creek, then to the wetlands east of the base, and eventually to the Ocmulgee River. Echeconnee Creek crosses the northern tip of the base. Horse Creek is the primary perennial stream on the base. It starts along the eastern

perimeter of the runway area and flows southeast through the Ocmulgee floodplain wetlands before leaving base property and entering the Ocmulgee River. A smaller, unnamed, intermittent stream runs from the discharge point of Duck Lake through Patton Pond and eventually into the floodplain wetlands. A larger stream, Sandy Run Creek, forms the southern boundary of the base and has a floodplain up to almost 2,000 feet wide. Upstream of the base, Sandy Run Creek receives the discharge from a sanitary wastewater treatment plant operated by the city of Warner Robins.

Stormwater runoff can enter the base from areas to the west principally through two storm water pipes that pass under SR 247. Stormwater from the northern inflow point flows east under the runway area via stormwater pipes and eventually flows into the wetlands and Horse Creek; the southern inflow point discharges to the main intermittent stream that flows into Duck Lake. Stormwater runoff from the northern portion of the base flows north/northeast to the wetlands of the Ocmulgee River floodplain. Stormwater from the north central portion of the base flows along natural, intermittent streams and man-made drainage features into Horse Creek. Stormwater from the south central portion of the base flows into the intermittent streams that feed Duck Lake, then it continues to flow east along the unnamed stream through Patton's Pond and into the wetlands. Stormwater on the southern portion of the base flows along natural and man-made features to the floodplain wetlands. Some of this runoff collects in Scout Lake and Lake Luna.

Duck Lake was previously identified as being contaminated with pesticides, specifically chlordane and Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). In 1979, a 55-gallon drum of a concentrated DDT pesticide mixture leaked at the Entomology Shop, which was located in Buildings 295 and 296 (south of existing Building 269, approximately 2,000 feet northwest of the Proposed Action Site). The Entomology Shop also used a storage facility adjacent to the building to store bulk chemicals. The DDT Spill Site is located in the Duck Lake watershed.

Soil sampling following the spill incident indicated the soils in the vicinity of the spill had been impacted. A 1983 investigation confirmed the presence of DDT and chlordane contamination in the soils. In 1987 and 1988, a more extensive investigation, which included analysis of groundwater, subsurface soil, surface sediment, surface water, and fish tissue samples, was conducted at the DDT Spill Site. In 1988, the area of contamination (Zone 2) was subdivided into Zone 2a (DDT Spill Site) and Zone 2b (Duck Lake Site). Sufficient data had been collected at the DDT Spill Site for making a remedial decision, but a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) was required for the Duck Lake Site. In 1992, the DDT Spill Site remediation was completed following building demolition, soil removal, backfilling with low permeability material, and partially paving the remediated area.

The Duck Lake RFI Report was completed in May 1991 and submitted to Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). In 1997, a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was developed for the Duck Lake Site that included the surface drainage features located between the DDT Spill Site and Duck Lake. The CAP identified chlordane, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene, DDT, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as contaminants of concern (COCs). The remedy presented in the CAP included eradication of the existing fishery, sediment excavation, treatment and disposal of the excavated sediments, lake restoration, and establishment of a monitoring plan.

In 1998, an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan was developed for the Duck Lake Site. The O&M Plan outlined the post-remediation monitoring program to monitor the contaminant concentration in Duck Lake and the volume of sediment accumulating in intervening sedimentation basins and Duck Lake. O&M monitoring has been performed since the construction of the sedimentation basins that was completed during the remedial action. This was followed in 2005 by a Revised O&M Plan. During the subsequent inspections it was determined that Robins AFB had achieved the corrective measures completion criteria as outlined in the 1998 O&M Plan and the 2005 Revised O&M Plan. In March 2006, the Georgia EPD granted a "No Further Action" status to Duck Lake. Based on the results of the remedial efforts and contaminant concentrations in Duck Lake, the former release does not represent an environmental concern.

3.1.3 Wetlands

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, has defined what are referred to as "jurisdictional" wetlands, as distinct from wetlands in the more general sense. Jurisdictional wetlands are wetlands that are delineated through the use of the *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands* (1989) and the 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). The Fish and Wildlife Service has developed broader definitions for wetlands, as discussed in Cowardin et al. (1979). The National Wetlands Inventory, a subagency of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has mapped most of the wetlands of the Atlantic Coastal Plain using the classification system put forth in Cowardin et al. (1979).

Table 3-1 summarizes the acreages of Robins AFB covered by each category of wetlands and the percentages of the total wetland acreage represented by each category. The jurisdictional wetlands on the Base previously have been delineated, and a new wetland delineation study currently is underway. Approximately 32 percent of Robins AFB is wetlands. Significantly more than half of all the wetlands on the Base are associated with the Ocmulgee floodplain.

Wetlands in the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River are seasonally and semi-permanently flooded, while wetlands in the floodplain of Sandy Run Creek are temporarily flooded. Most of the wetlands are broad-leaved deciduous, forested, palustrine (PFO1) wetlands.

Table 3-1. Acreages and Percentages of Robins AFB Covered By Wetlands

Category	Description	Acres	Percent of Base Total
PEM1C	Emergent vegetation, seasonal flooding	5	<1
PEM1F	Emergent vegetation, temporary flooding	1.6	<1
PFO1/4A	Broadleaf deciduous, needle evergreen, temporary flooding	112.1	1.6
PFO1/4C	Broadleaf deciduous, needle evergreen, seasonal flooding	171.8	2.4
PFO1C	Broadleaf deciduous, seasonal flooding	1530.7	21.7
PFO4/1A	Needle evergreen, broadleaf deciduous, semi-permanent flooding	70.4	1
PFO6F	Broadleaf deciduous, semi-permanent flooding	166.1	2.3
PSS1A	Scrub/shrub, temporary flooding	29.8	<1
PSS1C	Scrub/shrub, seasonal flooding	49.2	1
PUBHh	Unconsolidated bottom, permanent flooding, impounded or diked	11.5	<1
PUBHx	Unconsolidated bottom, permanent flooding, excavated	38.2	<1
PUSCx	Unconsolidated shore, seasonal flooding, excavated	1.2	<1
X	Other miscellaneous wetlands	68.4	1
Upland	Non-flooded, non-wetland habitats	4,813.4	68.1
Total		7,069.4	100

Source: EA (1995). Acreage based on GIS for Robins AFB.

3.2 Geology

Not relevant to this EA.

3.3 Groundwater

Not relevant to this EA.

3.4 Climate

Not relevant to this EA.

3.5 References

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4.0 AIR QUALITY

Not relevant to this EA.

5.0 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The biological environment and ecology of Robins AFB have been summarized in the *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* (INRMP) (RAFB, 2007). Appendices of the INRMP list all flora and fauna known to occur on Robins AFB and contain maps indicating locations of known natural resources. The INRMP serves as a decision-making tool on environmental issues and serves as the basis of natural resource management. Relevant information is incorporated herein by reference.

5.1 Flora

This section describes the flora of the study area, and the description is organized on the basis of vegetation communities. Subsequently, management of the forest communities on the base is discussed.

5.1.1 Communities

The diversity of vegetation communities on Robins AFB reflects the edaphic (soil) and topographic diversity of the site, as well as man's impact on the area. Natural communities can be categorized in a variety of ways. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a rare species and natural communities study of Robins AFB (Heyman, 1994) that categorized and mapped the communities. Alternatively, for the purposes of this discussion the vegetation communities on the base are categorized into 11 main types, including six upland communities, four lowland or floodplain communities, and communities in disturbed areas. Each community type is discussed below.

1) Loblolly Pine Forest. Most of the forested upland areas of the base are dominated by loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Young, middle-aged, and mature stands of trees are scattered throughout Robins AFB. Most of these stands have been planted or are the result of selectively cutting or partially clearing natural stands. In the more natural stands, an understory is present that includes sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and, sometimes, dogwood (*Cornus florida*). In disturbed stands in neighborhoods and along golf courses, the understory is usually open with exotic grasses planted in the herbaceous layer.

2) Longleaf Pine Forest. The natural vegetation of Robins AFB probably included extensive stands of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). Today, however, only one longleaf pine stand can be found on Robins AFB. Heyman (1994) described this stand as a "relict successional" longleaf

pine forest where fire suppression has allowed for the invasion of loblolly pine and hardwood species. The stand is being restored. The site has been harvested, excluding the mature longleaf pine seed trees; longleaf pine seedlings have been planted; forestry herbicides are applied as needed to control competing understory plant species; and prescribed burning has been implemented to reestablish the longleaf pine-wiregrass (*Astrida* sp.) community.

3) Pine/Mixed Hardwood Forest. Successional stands of loblolly pine with hardwoods in the canopy are scattered around Robins AFB. Some stands occur on the southern portion of the base in a transition zone of uplands and low bluffs where the upland grades into the floodplain and wetlands along Sandy Run Creek. In these areas, loblolly pine, water oak, upland laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), sweet gum, southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), and, rarely, beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) are present.

4) Mixed Hardwood Forest. Most of the mixed hardwood stands are found on bluffs overlooking the Ocmulgee River floodplain. There are a few mixed hardwood stands along the low slopes north of Sandy Run Creek and on a ridge running northwest-southeast across the Ocmulgee floodplain (see below). The best examples of hardwood bluffs are along Fort Valley Street and Crescent Drive and just below the fifth hole of the Robins AFB golf course. Canopy species in these stands include mature white oak (*Quercus alba*), water oak, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), beech, laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), and bluff white oak (*Quercus austrina*), which is uncommon in Georgia. Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), dwarf pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*), dogwood, and several invading exotics [most commonly Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)] are in the understory. Heartleaf (ginger) (*Hexastylis arifolia*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), yellow passion flower (*Passiflora lutea*), and ruellia (*Ruellia carolinensis*) were among the most common herbs seen on one mixed hardwood bluff in early June. The Ocmulgee skullcap (*Scutellaria ocmulgee*), which is threatened in Georgia and is a federal candidate species (Patrick et al., 1995), and needle-palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*), which is uncommon in Georgia, are found on the hardwood bluffs of Robins AFB (Heyman, 1994).

5) Swamp Tupelo Depression. Several small upland depressions dominated by Grady soils are scattered in the southern portion of Robins AFB. Often referred to as "gum ponds," these forested swamps are dominated by the presence of swamp tupelo or swamp black gum (*Nyssa biflora*). Sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), sweet gum, laurel oak, black willow (*Salix nigra*), tulip poplar, and red maple are also common in this vegetation type. Joor's sedge (*Carex joorii*), *Carex lupuliformis*, bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.), and Tracy's beakrush (*Rhynchospora tracyi*) are among the herbaceous flora found here (Heyman, 1994). Swamp tupelo also occurs in

organic depressions in the Ocmulgee floodplain and in the mucky soils along Sandy Run Creek (see below).

6) Depression Meadow. This community is located in an upland depression just south of Scout Lake. This wetland meadow plant community of graminaceous/herbaceous species occurs on wet Grady soil. It is dominated by seedboxes (*Ludwigia* spp.), needlerushes (*Juncus* spp.), meadowbeauties (*Rhexia* spp.), and panic grasses (*Panicum* spp.) is found. Awned meadowbeauty (*Rhexia aristosa*) is common here but is rare in Georgia (Heyman, 1994).

7) Mixed Hardwood Floodplain Ridge. In the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River, a ridge extends northwest-southeast across the floodplain near the PAVE-PAWS facility. A road and a gas line follow the crest of this low ridge, which is probably less than 10 feet above the level of the floodplain. A mixed hardwood and mixed hardwood-pine community is present on this ridge. Although only a few mature trees remain in this community type, it is reminiscent of what early authors called the "climax" vegetation of the richer sites in the Atlantic Coastal Plain: beech-magnolia-holly forest (Quarterman and Keever, 1962). Wharton (1978) pointed out that sometimes such forests are called "beech-magnolia hammocks." Water oak, pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), beech, loblolly pine, red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) are the dominant canopy trees. In the understory, dogwood, American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*), and Elliott's blueberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*) are common. The herbaceous layer, like that of the more upland mixed hardwood communities, is diverse. Creeping ginger (*Hexastylis arifolia* var. *pittmanii*), the rare Harper's bog heartleaf (*Hexastylis shuttleworthii* var. *harperi*), a skullcap (*Scutellaria* sp.), Indian cucumber root (*Medeola virginiana*), partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), Florida sedge (*Carex floridana*), and an unidentified sedge (*Carex* sp.) are common.

8) Mixed Bottomland Hardwood Forest. This community is found generally on Tawcaw soils in flats in the Ocmulgee River floodplain. Sweet gum, laurel oak, cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*) typically are the dominant canopy trees in seasonally-flooded areas. In lower areas, overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), red maple, and water hickory (*Carya aquatica*) are present. Common understory vegetation includes American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), American holly, and dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*) (Wharton, 1978). Woody vines dominate the herbaceous layer in bottomland hardwood communities. Peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*), and cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) are all common here. Floodplain forests are also extremely rich in sedge (*Carex* spp.). Some bottomland hardwood forest like that on Robins AFB may contain as many as 20 species of *Carex*.

9) Water Tupelo, Water Tupelo-Bald Cypress Forest. In the deepest sloughs and depressions in the Ocmulgee floodplain, often on Chastain soils, water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) forms pure stands or grows with bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Swamp tupelo, water ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), and water elm (*Planera aquatica*) also are tree species of this semipermanently-flooded community (Wharton, 1978; Heyman, 1994). Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), swamp dayflower (*Commelina virginica*), and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*) are common species of the herbaceous layer.

10) Organic Swamp. The soils of the floodplain of Sandy Run Creek are composed of Kingsland mucky peat and, unlike the Ocmulgee floodplain, are derived from decaying organic matter. The pH of this organic swamp is higher than that of most of the Ocmulgee floodplain, resulting in a different type of vegetation community. Swamp tupelo, red maple, sweet bay, red bay (*Persea palustris*), tulip poplar, sweet gum, and laurel oak are the dominant canopy trees. American holly, doghobble (*Leucothoe axillaris*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), cane, and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) are common in the understory and shrub layer. Common herb layer species include netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Harper's bog heartleaf and oval lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes ovalis*), both rare species in Georgia (Georgia DNR, 1997a), are found in the Sandy Run creek swamp community (Heyman, 1994). Organic swamp vegetation also is found where Sandy Run Creek empties into the Ocmulgee floodplain and is occasionally found in seepage depressions along the bluffs of the Ocmulgee floodplain (Wharton, 1978).

11) Disturbed Area Communities. In areas that have been disturbed by human or animal activity, variations of the above vegetation types may be found. Where floodplains have been cleared and along floodplain roads, graminaceous/herbaceous communities dominate; where beaver ponds exist, floating and marsh vegetation are present; and where bluffs have been cleared, weedy vegetation dominated by exotic plants occurs.

5.1.2 Forest Management

Forest management practices on the base are intended to provide for the restoration, long-term sustainability, and diversity of forest communities. Commercial harvesting is limited to small-stand timber sales in upland forest stands or pine plantations that need to be cleared prior to construction of new facilities. Even when these areas are harvested, small stands are retained whenever possible to provide visual relief and shade. The significant natural forest communities identified on Robins AFB by the Georgia DNR (see Section 3.5.3) are within areas that are managed for natural habitat values, including old growth attributes of bottomland hardwood forest and wildlife habitat. These areas are managed as part of a natural habitat preserve or in a

manner compatible with limited, dispersed recreational uses, such as hunting or birdwatching (EA, 1995). Recent management activities included survey of the loblolly pine plantations in 2003 with development of an updated 10-year management plan (URS, 2003a), and survey of the urban forest and development of updated management recommendations in 2004 (URS, 2004a).

5.2 Fauna

Wildlife species representative of the fauna of the study area are described in this section, and the description is organized on the basis of habitats. Subsequently, wildlife management on the base is discussed.

5.2.1 Habitats and Species

Representative listings of animal species characteristic of the major habitats on Robins AFB are provided in the following paragraphs. The species identified are derived from lists of animal species (vertebrates) likely to inhabit the habitats of Robins AFB provided in Heyman (1994), USDA (1989), and Hamel et al. (1982), available from the U. S. Forest Service. For birds, a letter following the species name indicates whether local populations are breeding (B) or wintering (W) only populations.

Pine and Pine/Mixed Hardwood Forest Habitats. In these habitats of the Coastal Plain, Wharton (1978) reported mole (*Ambystoma talpoideum*), flatwoods (*Ambystoma cingulatum*), and marbled (*Ambystoma opacum*) salamanders to be common amphibians. The most commonly encountered snakes were the king (*Lampropeltis getulus getulus*), corn (*Elaphe guttata guttata*), ribbon (*Thamnophis sauritus*), garter (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*), and black racer (*Coluber constrictor priapus*). The small mammal fauna of these habitats is poorly known, but does contain the least shrew (*Cryptotis parva*) and the short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*). Larger mammals known from this habitat type in the Coastal Plain include the fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*), and cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) (Wharton, 1978). Hamel et al. (1982) list the characteristic birds of this habitat type as the eastern pewee (*Contopus virens*) (B), Carolina chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*) (B), red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) (W), brown-headed nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) (B), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*) (W), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) (W), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) (W), pine warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) (B), and northern junco (*Junco hyemalis*) (W).

Mixed Hardwood Forest Habitats. These plant communities are known to provide habitat for the southern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus auriculatus*), cricket frog (*Acris gryllus*), pine woods

treefrog (*Hyla femoralis*), broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), southern ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*), gray rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta spiloides*), scarlet king snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*), and crowned snake (*Tantilla coronata*) (Wharton, 1978). Mammals that inhabit this community generally include the same species found in pine communities (see above). Characteristic birds of mixed hardwoods include the pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) (B), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) (B), great crested flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) (B), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) (B), tufted titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) (B), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) (B), hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) (W), and northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) (B) (Hamel et al., 1982).

Organic Swamp Habitats. Organic swamps are known to provide habitat for amphibian and reptile species that include the many-lined salamander (*Stereochilus marginatus*), southern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus auriculatus*), two-lined salamander (*Eurycea bislineata cirrigera*), amphiuma (*Amphiuma means*), sirens (*Siren* spp.), rainbow snake (*Farancia erythrogramma*), cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), and spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), an uncommon species. Little is known of the mammal fauna of this habitat type. Hamel et al. (1982) list as the characteristic birds of this type the red-bellied woodpecker (B), winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) (W), Carolina wren (B), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) (W), hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) (W), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) (W), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) (W), and fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) (W).

Floodplain Habitats. The fauna of mixed bottomland hardwood, water tupelo-bald cypress, and other lowland floodplain habitats includes both aquatic and terrestrial species. Dahlberg and Scott in Wharton (1978) list 57 species of fish from the Ocmulgee River drainage in Georgia. The amphibian fauna is known to include the bird-voiced treefrog (*Hyla avivoca avivoca*), which is restricted to floodplains (and has been recently heard calling in the Ocmulgee floodplain on Robins AFB), the bronze frog (*Rana clamitans clamitans*), the bull frog (*Rana catesbeiana*), and the carpenter frog (*Rana virgatipes*) (Wharton, 1978). Reptiles in this habitat include the rainbow snake, cottonmouth, and yellow-bellied turtle (*Chrysemys scripta scripta*) (Wharton, 1978).

Large mammals known to occur in floodplain habitats of the Coastal Plain include the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) (recently reported from the Ocmulgee floodplain and Sandy Run Creek on Robins AFB), feral pig (*Sus scrofa*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum, swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Characteristic birds of floodplains in the southeastern United States include the American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) (B), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (B), barred owl (*strix varia*) (B), pileated woodpecker (B),

red-bellied woodpecker (B), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) (B), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (W), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (W), acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) (B), Carolina wren (B), American robin (W), white-throated sparrow (W), tufted titmouse (B), red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) (B), blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) (B), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) (B), northern parula warbler (*Parula americana*) (B), yellow-rumped warbler (W), and yellow-throated warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) (B) (Hamel et al., 1982).

5.2.2 Wildlife Management

Bird/aircraft strikes pose a considerable hazard to aircraft and their crews. A primary focus of wildlife management at Robins AFB is the elimination or minimization of aircraft exposure to potentially hazardous bird strikes, as well as strikes of terrestrial animals on the runway. The base *BASH Plan* (RAFB, 2007) provides guidance in achieving this goal. The *BASH Plan* is based on hazards from both permanent (non-migratory) and seasonal (migratory) bird populations, and other animals that may wander onto the runway. Implementation of portions of the plan are continuous, while other portions require implementation as required by increased bird or animal activity in the vicinity of the runway.

The hazards to safe flying posed by birds and animals are so varied that no single solution to the bird strike problem exists. Among the actions called for in the plan is the elimination, control, or reduction of environmental factors that attract birds or animals to the airfield. For example, because birds and other animals usually are attracted in numbers by the presence of water, vegetative cover (trees, shrubs, tall grasses), or landfills that may be a source of food, the base is working to eliminate these attractions in the vicinity of the runway. In addition, bioacoustics (noise), pyrotechnics (fireworks), scare cartridges, and other methods are employed to disperse birds and cause them to avoid the vicinity of the runway.

Other wildlife management activities on the base include habitat management through selective prescribed burning and thinning of pine stands to maintain and improve wildlife habitat for both game and nongame species; hunting of game species such as white-tailed deer and feral pigs in the floodplain of the eastern and southern areas of the base, both to reduce the hazard to aircraft from large animals wandering onto the runway and for recreation; stocking of fish in the lakes to provide recreational fishing on the base; installation of nesting boxes for birds and roosting boxes for bats; and installation of basking platforms for turtles.

5.3 Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has compiled lists of the endangered, threatened, and sensitive (ETS) plant and animal species of the state. *Protected Plants of Georgia* (Patrick et al., 1995) lists plant species that are officially protected by state law. The Georgia DNR also publishes tracking lists for plants and animals of special concern in the state (Georgia DNR, 1997a; 1997b).

Heyman (1994) produced lists of potentially occurring ETS species in Houston County, Georgia as part of a Georgia DNR rare species and natural communities study of Robins AFB. Heyman (1994) did not find any ETS animal species on Robins AFB during her study. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resource Conservation Service, reported (USDA, 1989) several ETS animal species as occurring on Robins AFB. They reported the bald eagle (federally listed as threatened and state-listed as endangered) as a late winter and summer visitor to open water (probably the Ocmulgee River). SCS also listed several fish species that are rare in the state of Georgia as being known from the river or creeks on Robins AFB: the goldstripe darter (*Etheostoma parvipinne*) and redeye chub (*Notropis harperi*) – both state-listed as rare, the golden top minnow (*Fundulus chrysotus*), the Ocmulgee shiner (*Cyprinella callisema*), and the sailfin shiner (*Pteronotropis hypselopterus*). These earlier ETS surveys were updated in 1999 and 2000 by a rare plant survey and management plan (Rust, 1999) and a threatened and endangered animal species survey (Rust, 2000). Reptiles and amphibians were surveyed in 2003 and, although several new species were recorded, there were no reptile or amphibian ETS present (URS, 2003b). A botanical report in 2004 updated and consolidated previous plant surveys on Robins AFB (URS, 2004b).

Two plants found on Robins AFB currently are protected by state law: (1) the Ocmulgee skullcap (*Scutellaria ocmulgee*) is state listed as threatened in Georgia. At Robins AFB, it occurs on the hardwood bluffs overlooking the Ocmulgee River floodplain. (2) Harper's bog heartleaf (*Hexastylis shuttleworthii* var. *harperi*) is state listed as unusual, and a permit is required for commercial trade in the species. It was found along the margins and within the creek swamp along Sandy Run Creek (Heyman, 1994) and since has been found along the margins of the Ocmulgee floodplain (Gaddy, unpublished data). Eight other rare plants of concern found on Robins AFB are tracked by the state, but not legally protected. Six of these species, Awnpetal meadowbeauty (*Rhexia aristosa*), Boykin's lobelia (*Lobelia boykinii*), white doll's daisy (*Boltonia asteroides*), black-seeded spikerush (*Eleocharis melanocarpa*), Robbin's spikerush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*), and quillwort arrowhead (*Sagittaria isoetiformis*) are found in the depression meadow south of Scout Lake. This site appears to be the only habitat for these species on Robins AFB. The remaining two rare plants of concern, October ladies'-tresses

(*Spiranthes ovalis*) and Southern peat moss sedge (*Carex lonchocarpa*), were found by Heyman (1994) in the floodplain of Sandy Run Creek on Robins AFB.

In addition to the identification of individual species of concern, significant natural communities also have been identified on Robins AFB. The Natural Resources Plan for Robins AFB, produced by the SCS (USDA, 1989), documented several noteworthy plant community types on Robins AFB, and Heyman (1994) described eight significant natural communities on the base. Heyman (1994) listed the following areas/community types as significant: 1) old growth bottomland hardwood swamp (in the floodplain of the Ocmulgee); 2) creek swamp (in Sandy Run floodplain); 3) bay swamp (an organic swamp at the margin of the Ocmulgee floodplain); 4) gum-cypress pond (a beaver-maintained floodplain wetland); 5) gum pond (an upland pond near Sandy Run Creek); 6) Grady freshwater meadow (a depression meadow on Grady soils south of Scout Lake); 7) relict upland hardwood bluff forest (the hardwood bluffs overlooking the Ocmulgee floodplain along Crescent Drive, Fort Valley Street, and Hannah Road); and 8) relict successional longleaf pine forest. The beech-southern magnolia-holly community on the ridge that extends southeastward into the floodplain of the Ocmulgee probably constitutes another significant natural area or community.

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2004a. *Urban Forest Management Component Plan*. Prepared by URS Corporation, subcontracted to Cape Environmental Management, Inc., for the Environmental Management Directorate, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. June.

2004b. *Robins Air Force Base Botanical Report*. Prepared by URS Corporation, subcontracted to Cape Environmental Management, Inc., for the Environmental

Management Directorate, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. December.

Wharton, C. H. 1978. *The Natural Environments of Georgia*. Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Atlanta. 227 p.

6.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic sites, structures, artifacts, districts or any other physical evidence of human activities considered important to a culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, as well as architectural resources. Prehistoric resources are evidences of human activity that predate the advent of written records in the region. Historic archaeological resources include campsites, roads, battlegrounds, and a variety of other structures from the period of recorded history in the region. Architectural resources include structures or districts of historic or aesthetic significance, such as buildings, bridges, and dams. To be considered for protection, such architectural structures normally must be more than 50 years old. However, more recent structures, such as those constructed during the Cold War era, may warrant protection if they manifest the potential to gain significance in the future. According to the terminology of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, all of the above cultural resources may be considered historic properties.

6.1 Regulatory Requirements

The need for Robins AFB to properly treat cultural resources is derived from various acts, agreements, and Air Force instructions, regulations, and directives, including:

- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Historic Sites Act of 1935
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended
- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as Amended
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as Amended
- Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974
- Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as Amended
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993
- Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act
- Archaeological and Historic Resources Management (Department of Defense Directive 4710.1)

- Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement among the United States Department of Defense, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, as Amended
- Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperative Actions in Cultural Resource Management on Military Lands between the Department of Defense and the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Cultural Resources Management (Air Force Instruction 32-7065)
- Natural Resource: Historic Preservation (Air Force Instruction 126-7)
- Environmental Quality (Air Force Policy Directive 32-70)

6.2 Known Cultural Resources

Under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470h-2), Robins AFB has been given the responsibility of conducting a cultural resources inventory and evaluation of all of its holdings. The earliest archaeological survey and cultural resources inventory on the base was conducted in 1977. The first major archaeological survey of Robins AFB was conducted in 1986. The main base property has since been completely surveyed for archaeological sites and historic structures/districts, and the survey work has been reviewed and accepted by the Georgia SHPO.

All upland Phase II archaeological testing has been completed and Robins AFB has a total of 15 archaeological sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The historical/architectural survey of the base examined all structures on base and Robins AFB has a total of 26 buildings eligible for the NRHP. Two districts (12 structures) and 14 additional individual buildings have been recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP (**Table 6-1**).

In addition to the general requirements for any Air Force facility to preserve cultural resources, Robins AFB has a Programmatic Agreement (PA) that was finalized August 2008 with the Georgia SHPO regarding maintenance activities on historic structures or in historic districts. Stipulations of the PA are followed so that base activities will have no adverse effects on any eligible historic structure or district. In addition, the *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan* (ICRMP) for Robins AFB was finalized December 2005. The archeological and cultural resources of Robins AFB have been summarized in the ICRMP.

The ICRMP and the draft PA specify the constraints on activities in or near the 26 eligible historic structures and two eligible historic districts. Basically, no activity is allowed that will detract from the attributes that made the structure or district eligible for the NRHP. If potential adverse effects threaten any eligible resource, and if the undertaking cannot feasibly be redesigned to avoid the effects, the adverse effects are to be mitigated through data recovery investigations and documentation under a plan reviewed and accepted by the SHPO.

Table 6-1. NRHP Eligible Historic Structures and Districts on Robins AFB.

Resource	Description	NRHP Recommendation
Crew Readiness Facility (Building 12)	Altered, but contains Cold War significance, constructed in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Armaments Production/Assembly Facility (Building 94)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Munitions Storage Facility (Building 97)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Munitions Storage Facility (Building 98)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Munitions Storage Facility (Building 105)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Munitions Storage Facility (Building 106)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Sentry Police Administration Facility (Building 107)	Built in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Control Tower and Operations Hangars (Building 110)	The original control tower/ operations building, built in 1942.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Maintenance Hangar (Building 125)	Largest building at Robins AFB, constructed in 1942.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Original Post Headquarters (Building 220)	The original base headquarters, built in 1942.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.

Resource	Description	NRHP Recommendation
Officer's Circle District (Buildings 400, 405, 410-412, 415, 450)	Five two-story residential buildings and two storage structures constructed 1942; Colonial Revival style.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Chief's Circle District (Buildings 500-502, 504, 505)	Five two-story residential buildings, constructed 1942; Colonial Revival style.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
PAVE-PAWS Facility (Building 1400)	Surveillance radar, constructed 1986. Contains Cold War significance.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Maintenance Hangar (Building 2067)	Constructed for large aircraft in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Maintenance Hangar (Building 2081)	Constructed for large aircraft in 1960.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.
Munitions Storage Igloo (Building 2108)	Constructed for munitions storage in 1990.	Eligible. SHPO concurs.

7.0 LAND USE

Not relevant to this EA.

8.0 NOISE ENVIRONMENT

Not relevant to this EA.

9.0 SAFETY

Not relevant to this EA.

10.0 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

Not relevant to this EA.

11.0 INFRASTRUCTURE

Not relevant to this EA.

12.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

12.1 Solid Waste

Not relevant to this EA.

12.2 Hazardous Materials and Waste

Not relevant to this EA.

12.3 Toxic Materials and Waste

12.3.1 Pesticides

Pesticides are regulated under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and are used on the base mainly to control insects that are turf and ornamental plant pests, structural pests, and disease vectors. Pesticides are applied by licensed personnel from the Base Pest Management Shop, and an integrated pest management approach is used to minimize the quantities used. Pesticides are stored in the Pest Management Shop (Building 1549), the Self Help Center (Building 667), and the Golf Course Maintenance Facility (Building 596).

12.3.2 Asbestos Containing Materials

A base-wide asbestos survey for friable asbestos-containing material (ACM) was completed in March 1988. The known friable ACM then was removed in four phases. Friable ACM has now been removed from approximately 98 percent of base facilities. Friable ACM continues to be removed from base facilities through renovation and construction activities. ACM surveying and sampling are included in renovation and construction project activities. Costs for ACM removal also are included in renovation/construction project cost estimates.

12.3.3 Polychlorinated Biphenyls

Robins AFB completed inspection and removal of all transformers and other large capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at concentrations greater than 50 ppm in July 1991, thereby achieving “PCB-free” status. PCB management programs now focus on proper disposal of smaller capacitors, including fluorescent light ballasts that are not regulated under TSCA but pose a risk of liability to the base under CERCLA if they are disposed of as municipal solid waste and contaminate municipal landfills.

12.4 Contaminated Sites

Not relevant to this EA.

12.5 References

Robins AFB (RAFB). July 1996. *Pollution Prevention Management Action Plan for Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, Georgia*. Final Plan. Prepared for Environmental Management Directorate, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

WR-ALC. 2006. *Hazardous Waste Reduction Plan, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia*.

APPENDIX B

AGENCY/PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR THE
DRAFT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE
RESERVE COMMAND CAMPUS AT ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE

Robins Air Force Base (AFB) announces the availability of public review and comment of the proposed Draft Final Environmental Assessment and Draft Findings of No Significant Impact for the Construction and Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) Campus at Robins AFB.

The proposed action is to construct a Headquarters AFRC Campus at Robins AFB, GA. The campus would enhance the administrative function of this command by consolidating personnel and facilities into a single geographic location. Existing AFRC facilities at Robins AFB would be vacated for use by the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, allowing the latter entity to more efficiently use the facilities to support other functions of the base.

A copy of the proposed EA and FONSI are available for public viewing and comment for the next 30 days in the Nola Brantley Memorial Library (also known as the Houston County Library), 721 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA, 478-923-0128. For questions or comments, please contact the 78 Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs at 478-926-2137 or the address below:

78 ABW/PA
620 9th St., Bldg. 905, Rm. 215
Robins AFB, GA 31098

07469

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GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2008
BY: _____

TO: Rebecca Crader
78 CEG/CEVP
Dept. of the Air Force
755 Macon Street, Bldg. 1555
Robins AFB, GA 31098-2201

CEV DIV R.M. 10 Sep 08
CEV DEP _____
OPR CEVP / OS
OCR Crader
INFO _____

FROM: Barbara Jackson

DATE: 9/3/2008

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

APPLICANT: Dept. of the Air Force - Robins AFB, GA

PROJECT: Draft Final EA: Construction and Operation of Headquarters Air Force
Reserve Command Campus (Robins AFB, GA)

CFDA #:

STATE ID: GA080903003

FEDERAL ID:

Correspondence related to the above project was received by the Georgia State Clearinghouse on 9/3/2008. The review has been initiated and every effort is being made to ensure prompt action. The proposal will be reviewed for its consistency with goals, policies, plans, objectives, programs, environmental impact, criteria for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) or inconsistencies with federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations, and if applicable, with budgetary restraints.

The initial review process should be completed by 10/2/2008 (*approximately*). If the Clearinghouse has not contacted you by that date, please call (404) 656-3855, and we will check into the delay. We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

In future correspondence regarding this project, please include the State Application Identifier number shown above. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact us at the above number.




OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Sonny Perdue
Governor

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

Trey Childress
Director

TO: Rebecca Crader
78 CEG/CEVP
Dept. of the Air Force
755 Macon Street, Bldg. 1555
Robins AFB, GA 31098-2201

FROM: Barbara Jackson 
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 10/1/2008

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

PROJECT: Draft Final EA: Construction and Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve
Command Campus (Robins AFB, GA)

STATE ID: GA080903003

The State level review of the above referenced document has been completed. As a result of the environmental review process, the activity this document was prepared for has been found to be consistent with state social, economic, physical goals, policies, plans, and programs with which the State is concerned.

Additional Comments: The applicant/sponsor is advised to note additional comments from DNR's Historic Preservation Division.

/bj

Enc.: DNR/EPD, Sep. 24, 2008
DNR/HPD, Sep. 30, 2008

Form SC-4-EIS-4
January 1995

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse
270 Washington Street, SW, Eighth Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

FROM: DR. CAROL COUCH
DNR/EPD/DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

APPLICANT: Dept. of the Air Force - Robins AFB, GA

PROJECT: Draft Final EA: Construction and Operation of Headquarters Air Force Reserve
Command Campus (Robins AFB, GA)

STATE ID: GA080903003

FEDERAL ID:

DATE:

- ☒ This notice is considered to be consistent with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for developments of regional impact, environmental impacts, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which this organization is concerned.

This notice is not consistent with:

- ☐ The goals, plans, policies, or fiscal resources with which this organization is concerned. (Line through inappropriate word or words and prepare a statement that explains the rationale for the inconsistency. (Additional pages may be used for outlining the inconsistencies. Be sure to put the GA State ID number on all pages).
- ☐ The criteria for developments of regional impact, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations administered by your agency. Negative environmental impacts or provision for protection of the environment should be pointed out. (Additional pages may be used for outlining the inconsistencies. Be sure to put the GA State ID number on all pages).
- ☐ This notice does not impact upon the activities of the organization.

NOTE: Should you decide to FAX
this form (and any attached pages),
it is not necessary to mail the
originals to us. [404-656-7916]

RECEIVED

SEP 24 2008

Form SC-3
Sept. 2007

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2316
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse
270 Washington Street, SW, Eighth Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

FROM: Elizabeth Shirk *ES*
Environmental Review Coordinator
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Finding of "No Historic Properties Affected"

PROJECT: **Robins AFB: Construct Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Campus**
GA-080903-003

COUNTY: Houston County, Georgia

DATE: September 24, 2008

The Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the information received concerning the above-mentioned project. Our comments are offered to assist the US Air Force (USAF) and Robins Air Force Base (AFB) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Based on the information submitted, HPD believes that no historic properties or archaeological resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be affected by this undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). Please note that historic and/or archaeological resources may be located within the project's area of potential effect (APE), however, at this time it has been determined that they will not be impacted by the above-mentioned project. Furthermore, any changes to this project as proposed will require further review by our office for compliance with the Section 106 process.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at (404) 651-6624, or Jackie Horlbeck, Environmental Review Historian, at (404) 651-6777. Please refer to the project number assigned above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

ES:jph

cc: Kristina Harpst, Middle Georgia RDC
Rebecca McCoy, Robins AFB

RECEIVED
SEP 30 2008

GEORGIA
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE